It's carnival time this week in Porthcawl! (SEE PAGE 6)

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2,000 incidents but many more unreported

Domestic violence 'enormous issue' in county borough

THERE were almost 2,000 incidents of domestic abuse reported to police within Bridgend county borough in the past year.

A report on the issue, made to the community and environment scrutiny committee, heard that domestic abuse was an "enormous" issue in Bridgend – as elsewhere in the country.

There were 1,831 incidents recorded by police between 2008 and 2009, and 516 of these were repeat victims.

Some of the incidents were referred to MARAC – the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference – and there is also a domestic abuse co-ordinator in Bridgend employed by the council and funded by the Welsh Assembly Government.

The co-ordinator works three days a week and is based at the Community Safety Partnership.

Councillors heard that victims of abuse can get support from two main sources – from the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate, which helps male and female victims, and Bridgend Women's Aid.

Councillors heard that Women's Aid offers a refuge, second stage accommodation, outreach and programmes to help the children involved.

The Wallich also has 14 units for women fleeing domestic violence.

A special Domestic Violence Court has been set up in Bridgend and runs every Friday.

The Bridgend Domestic Abuse Forum was re-activated last August and brings together partners from the voluntary and state sectors.

Nationally, domestic abuse accounts for between 16 per cent and 25 per cent of all recorded violent crime, but less then 24 per cent of it is reported to police.

On average, two women a week are killed by a male or former partner.

More than 750,000 children witness domestic abuse and are at increased risk of behavioural problems, emotional trauma and mental health difficulties in adult life.

In up to 90 per cent of incidents, children are either in the same room or an adjoining one.

Funeral of Pencoed soldier

THE funeral of Lance Corporal Dane Elson, of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, will take place tomorrow (Friday, July 24) 12.30pm, in Salem Chapel, Coychurch Road, Pencoed, with full military honours.

LCpl Elson was killed in Afghanistan on July 5 by a contact explosion from an improvised explosive device.

He died while on patrol in Babaji as part of Operation Panchai Palang in Helmand province, Afghanistan, and was part of a Fire Support Group from the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, attached to The Light Dragoons Battle Group.

Lieutenant Colonel Gus Fair, Commanding Officer, The Light Dragoons Battle Group, said: "LCpl Elson was part of a small band of Welsh Guards attached to the Battle Group.

"Despite being small in number, they have made a huge impact with their professionalism, drive and determination to take the fight to the enemy.

"Lance Corporal Elson was one of the best of these men."

Burial will take place immediately after the service at Pencoed Cemetery, Felindre Road, Pencoed, at 1.30pm.

POLICE CHIEF IS 'SHOCKED' AT LATE NIGHT VIOLENCE IN TOWN CENTRE

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

A SENIOR police officer has told Bridgend Town Council that he was shocked at the level of violent behaviour he encountered in the town centre.

Acting Supt Simon Belcher said he chaired the Late Night Economy Group, which had focused on the town centre in Bridgend during the past year.

"We have had a lot of success," he reported. "We have seen a 30 per cent reduction in serious violent crime over the past year. I have worked in places like the Gurnos, but I was surprised at what I found in Bridgend on a Friday and Saturday night.

"It was a real eye-opener to see what's happening at 3am.

"Police are often having to deal with fights at 5am because of the late opening in Bridgend, whereas in other places, officers can relax after 2am and go back to the station. In Bridgend, we can have 10 or 15 people fighting at 5am.

"We have had attacks on people who are cleaning the streets in the early hours.

"It's horrific."

Supt Belcher said that they had targeted this problem and there had been a reduction in incidents, but there was no room for complacency.

"We have had some serious assaults in recent months, so we have to keep an eye on this type of problem."

He praised the work done by the Street Pastors and at the Triage Centre in the town centre at weekends.

Supt Belcher said that most of the troublemakers were in their 20s and the trouble usually took place from midnight until 5am.

He was asked about the Public Places Drinking Orders, which give police powers to confiscate alcohol on the streets. An order has already been made for Bridgend:

"We must make sure we have these in the right areas, and we are starting a consultation in Pencoed to see if one is needed there.

"We must have hard evidence that there are problems of people drinking on the streets, and of anti-social behaviour," he said.

Serious problems in Wildmill were also raised at the meeting.

Coun Roger Marsh said that there had been two nasty assaults in Wildmill in the past few days: "The police response was immediate and people were arrested, but we have a problem at weekends.

"If I ring up in the early hours, I am told that there's not much chance of an officer coming out because of problems in Bridgend town centre or other areas.

"I receive an average of 20 to 30 calls from the public on a weekend about public order – loud music, drinking, parties etc. There are people who cannot sleep because of the noise, but if we call the police, we are told that nobody is available."

Coun Marsh claimed drug problems were rampant on the estate.

"The quality of life on the estate is deteriorating. There was a time when the drug problem had vanished off the streets, but it is now back, with people dealing on the main roads in front of others.

"We are also seeing people staggering around drunk, or on drugs. It is really bad."

Coun Marsh said that the problems had been repeatedly raised at PACT meetings with police.

"Elderly people are afraid to go out after 7pm and youngsters are walking around drinking out of flagons or cans.

"There are 13-year-old girls out of their heads on drink or drugs."

Supt Belcher said he knew that police resources were stretched on weekends because he often worked those shifts himself. He said he would raise these issues with the beat manager for the area.

"We will make sure we get a presence in Wildmill on Fridays and Saturdays – if necessary, I will authorise some extra money to pay for overtime."

He added that an officer would address the Over-50s club to find out what people's concerns were.

Supt Belcher said that police had concentrated in recent times on tackling burglaries – "But it is not burglaries or car crime that's a priority with the public, but anti-social behaviour.

"We will now be paying attention to these quality of life issues."

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EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR AS THE LONDON OLYMPICS TAKE SHAPE

THOSE of you who read these articles on a regular basis may remember how, three years ago, I described seeing the Bird's Nest stadium and the egg box swimming pool being built ready for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

I had never been a great fan of the Olympics, but the excitement generated by London's success in winning the bid to host the 2012 games and the opportunity to visit the emerging sports village filled me with enthusiasm.

I felt that same surge of excitement and thrill when I toured the site for the London 2012 games this week.

Jillian Purvis, from the office of Huw Irranca Davies MP, brought Amy Tidball and David Guest from Maesteg and Bridgend up to London to tour the site with me. Both Amy and David are medal winning members of Bridgend athletics with a great future in sport ahead of them.

We met outside Stratford tube station, along with MPs and young sports stars from across the UK and boarded coaches for our tour of the huge building site.

Our guide during the tour was the person responsible for the planning and development of the site. Sebastian Coe is responsible for the organisation of the games themselves.

Statistics show how huge the task facing the team of building and construction workers really is. With a lorry entering the site every minute carrying building materials and equipment, a specialist vehicle management system is needed to ensure that there are no traffic jams through local communities. No lorry enters the site before its load is ready to be used.

Work to decontaminate the site and clear old workshops that covered it has been completed. The filthy canal and river flowing through the site is slowly being cleaned and made into a wildlife haven.

The 52 pylons which stretched across the site have been dismantled and their cables buried deep below ground. The pylons cables take up only 5 per cent of the space in the vast concrete tubes needed to cope with the heat they generate.

The stadium and swimming pool are the architectural highlights of Olympic villages and London is no exception. The bid promised that the village would regenerate this impoverished area of London and provide facilities which could be reused or dismantled.

The main stadium has the capacity to have layers removed after the games, reducing it from 80,000 to a manageable 25,000-seat stadium for future use. When built, the stadium is to be wrapped in cloth which, depending on the budget remaining, will be plain and simple, bright and colourful, or have the capacity to show televised pictures of events to those unable to obtain tickets to enter it.

The roof of the swimming pool, which is said to be the size of Heathrow's Terminal 5, is dramatic and imaginative. Once completed, it will be lifted into the air and the 18,000-seater pool, will be built below it.

Tickets for events will go on sale in 2011 with a ballot for the most sought after events. Entering the park, just to wander and enjoy the atmosphere will be as low as £5 and the cheapest ticket for events is £25.

For those unable to travel to London, there will be 30 large television screens erected around the UK so that the games can be enjoyed by everyone. Nineteen of the screens are already in place, including one in Cardiff.

Viewing the Olympic village site from the top floor of a block of flats overlooking the site, gave the four of us an awareness of the massive task of managing the building of stadiums, roads, a school, hospital, accommodation blocks, shopping complex, restaurants and all of the customer service facilities.

At present, 5,000 are working on the site, rising to 10,000 next year. The site is currently on time and on budget, which is quite an achievement.

When the games commence, 300,000 visitors are expected to attend each day. The majority will arrive by train and bus as there will be limited parking at the village. Nineteen park and ride sites located around London will cater for those driving to the city for the games.

I could not join Gillian, Amy and David, who when we left the site went on to a reception in Number 10. There they were joined by Huw Irranca Davies and an array of sports stars.

We met up again for Amy and David to have a quick tour of the Palace of Westminster and Gillian, a well-earned cup of tea.

This was a day not to be forgotten and one that fills me with anticipation for 2012.

If you want to see the site for yourself log on to www.london2012.com and you can watch it rise day by day from the wasteland of Stratford.

I will be buying my tickets the day the box office opens for both the main and paralymic games.

I know that Amy and David will be sharing their enthusiasm with their friends in Bridgend Athletics, inspiring them to train and push themselves even harder in their chosen sports.

London 2012 will be an event not to miss.

ABOVE: The Bird's Nest stadium.

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON is writing an exclusive monthly report from Westminster for The GEM.

ABOVE: The MP with the two sporting guests.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JULY 30)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
23 Thur	08.41	15.0	21.02	15.2
24 Fri	09.31	15.0	21.47	15.3
25 Sat	10.10	15.0	22.32	15.3
26 Sun	11.02	14.8	23.17	14.7
27 Mon	11.41	14.3	23.55	14.1
28 Tues			12.18	13.9
29 Wed	00.29	13.5	13.01	12.8
30 Thur	01.17	12.7	13.39	12.2

DIDN'T WE DO WELL?!

I recently enjoyed one of the most exciting day's cricket ever, at the fifth day of the opening Ashes series in Cardiff.

It was not just because we were in the impressive new stadium, or that we achieved a most unlikely draw, after a forecast that it would be all over by lunch, or even the nail-biting last half hour, including a little unnecessary gamesmanship.

No, it was the warmth and greeting of every member of the staff, without exception, as we came in. My son, a cricket enthusiast, who is staying with us, remarked that one doesn't get this reception at Lords.

While I appreciate that some of the other Test grounds felt slightly aggrieved that the Swalec stadium won the right to stage the first Ashes test, no-one who had experienced the smooth efficiency of the organisation and the good-natured generosity of all the officials, could have felt anything but pride and a renewed love of the glorious game

Basil Watkins,
Tredodridge

Cake break boosts charity

I RECENTLY read an article written by one of the Hairy Bikers, Dave Myers – regarding fundraising for multiple sclerosis and asking members to hold a cake break.

He learnt to cook from the age of eight as his mum has MS and he and his dad took over the role of cook, housekeeper and nurse.

With the help of fellow WI member Wendy Jones, I held a cake break in Newton Women's Institute and 30 ladies attended and we all had a great time, with plenty of cakes being eaten with lots of hot tea and coffee!

A raffle was held and also a cake quiz.

We raised £149.90, which was a great amount for such a lovely tea party. We were very lucky to have the funds raised matched by Newton Institute, so I was able to send off the grand total of £299.90 to MS head office.

I would like to thank the trustees of Newton Institute for the donation to such a good cause.

Newton Institute village hall is a nice venue for meetings or children's parties and is available for hire at reasonable rates. For details, telephone 01656 784566.

The next event taking place at Newton Institute is their summer fayre on August 8 at 2pm. Admission 50p, includes tea/coffee.

On sale are books, toys, clothes, bric-a-brac, garden items, cake stall and a raffle and tombola.

Mrs Jill George,
Newton

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 02072194417
Constituency office - 47, Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm. Telephone 01656 750002
HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777
JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320
Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549
BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open to personal callers: Tuesday-Friday 10am-12.30pm or telephone service: Monday-Friday 10am-12.30pm.
MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau **01656 734662**
POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555
Porthcawl 01656 785411
Maesteg 01656 732122
CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
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National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
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RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
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WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139
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Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490
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(homelessness) **01656 643542.**
EDUCATION 01656 642643
LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 01656 642677
HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) **01656 643421**
HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES
(outside normal working hours) **07831 143600**
SOCIAL SERVICES
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Bridgend and District NHS Trust **01656 752752**
VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) **01656 810400**
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
Brackla Community Council **01656 767072**
Bridgend Town Council **01656 659943**
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Pyle Community Council **01656 670251**
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Coychurch Lower Community Council **01656 647216**
Garw Valley Community Council **01656 736751**
Laleston Community Council **01656 656506**
Llangynwyd Lower Council **01656 728662**
Maesteg Town Council **01656 732631**
Merthyr Mawr Community Council **01656 670058**
Newcastle Higher Community Council **01446 772536**
Ogmore Valley Community Council **01656 849402**
Pencoed Town Council **01656 869031**
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Olwen celebrates her 100 years – with flowers and greetings from the Queen!

A PORTHCAWL pensioner had a special day last week when she woke up to find the traditional birthday card from the Queen – to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Mrs Olwen Roberts was born in Porthcawl at No 8 Vintin Terrace (she was Olwen Jones then).

On her birthday, she was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Coun Rosemary Deere, the Mayor of Porthcawl, on behalf of Porthcawl Town Council (right).

As well as her birthday card from the Queen, she also had cards from the Welsh Office and the National Assembly.

Olwen has received so many bouquets of flowers that she wants to place at least two at the foot of the Porthcawl Cenotaph – in memory of all servicemen who have died.

Her father was a war veteran, and a founder member of the Porthcawl United Services Club.

Olwen recalled: "He did a lot of work to get pensions for former servicemen when they returned home from the War."

BELOW:
Olwen with the mayor, her son Kenneth and friends who had called to wish her well on her 100th birthday.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH E MORGAN

Anti-social hot spots are targeted by community safety team around Bridgend county borough

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour hot spots in Bridgend county borough over the past year have been listed as Bridgend bus station, Bridgend Recreation Centre, Pontycymer and Pencoed.

However, more recently, there have been issues in Cefn Glas, Caerau and Maesteg town centre. This information was included in a report to Bridgend Council's Community and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

The community safety team adopts a varied approach to these hot spots. In Pontycymer and Pencoed, a task force was set up to address the problem, while smaller working groups investigated Bridgend Recreation centre and the bus station.

Further task groups are being established for Caerau and Cefn Glas.

The group in Pontycymer has reported considerable success in reducing anti-social behaviour, and there has also been progress in Pencoed.

At the moment, there are only the resources to operate four task groups at any one time.

Referrals made by police and others go through the ASBO process which has four stages. An application for an ASBO is only made at the fourth stage.

In the year ended April 30 2009, there were 2,591 referrals to the Community Safety Partnership and they came from a number of sources, including the Princess of Wales hospital, staff at Bridgend bus station, housing associations, schools and police.

The issue of anti-social behaviour and youth annoyance was raised as a priority at the majority of PACT meetings in the borough.

The meeting heard that 85 per cent of individuals respond to the warning letter issued at stage one of the process and that no further action is needed.

However, during the year, 50 people, mainly youngsters, were referred to the third stage, which is dealt with by a multi agency problem-solving group.

This devises action plans to modify the behaviour of the young person, which is monitored until it improves. This is the group that recommends the next stage, which is an application for an ASBO.

The report states that there is a link between anti-social behaviour and a lack of youth facilities in an area – the fewer the facilities, the greater the number of incidences.

It has been found that effective youth work is the intervention most likely to succeed in reducing anti- social behaviour, particularly in hot spot areas.

The report says that the problem of underage drinking has defeated the task groups and there has been little improvement, despite the fact it has a significant detrimental effect on behaviour and criminal activity.

An action plan has now been prepared to try to tackle the issue and it will be monitored over the coming year.

Crime drops in Bridgend county – official report

FIGURES released by the Home Office last week showed that car crime fell by 13.4 per cent in Bridgend county in the past year and detection rates for autocrime rose by 64.3 per cent in the same period.

Robberies had been reduced by 10.8 per cent, down to 33 offences during the year. While there was a 4 per cent increase in dwelling burglaries, commercial burglaries fell by 2 per cent, with a 38.6 per cent increase in detections. Overall, during the year there were 88 fewer victims of crime across the county.

Acting Chief Superintendent Liane James of Bridgend police, commented: "The performance of our police officers and staff in Bridgend during the past year has been excellent, and we are working to keep Bridgend a safe place to live, work and visit.

"We have seen some excellent work carried out through the year to combat autocrime – a distressing and costly crime for victims. Some 184 fewer victims of autocrime were recorded during the year.

"Our officers will continue to work to drive down crime in Bridgend, as well as increasing detection rates, making our community a hostile environment for criminals to operate.

He added: "We recognise that it is not all about figures and we are working very hard on issues such as making people feel safer and ensuring the perception of crime reflects reality."

Former town mayor has died in Spain

FORMER Porthcawl town mayor, Mrs Christine Ashman, has died at her home in Spain.

She was believed to be in her 80s and had sat on Porthcawl Town Council and also on Ogwr Borough Council.

Her husband, Roy, was also a member of the old Porthcawl UDC. They were both active members of the Porthcawl Conservative party and keen supporters of the chamber of trade and Porthcawl Little Theatre.

They ran a wallpaper and paint shop in John Street before retiring to Spain about 20 years ago.

Mr Ashman died some years ago and now news has come to Porthcawl that his wife has also passed away. The couple had no children.

"I sat on Ogwr council with Christine," said Porthcawl council conservative leader David Deere. "She was very active in the community and we were all sorry when they decided to leave Porthcawl.

"We did keep in touch by phone, but as far as I know, they never came back for a visit."

BCBC GRANTS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

CAPITAL schemes costing more than £600,000 to improve buildings or provide new facilities throughout Bridgend county borough will be given some grant funding from the borough council.

BCBC has approved grants of £133,467 towards these schemes, which are all being implemented by the town and community councils in the area. They all have to match fund the amounts granted by the borough.

The borough council has set up a special capital fund which town and community councils can tap into. This fund has £150,000 this year and next, but after that, the amount reduces to £75,000.

The largest grant will go to Maesteg Town Council which is to get £40,000 towards the provision of new public toilets within the town centre. The total cost of this project is £400,000.

Porthcawl Town Council is to get £25,000 – half the cost of installing a new skateboard park in the town.

A grant of £25,000 is also being approved so that Newcastle Higher Community Council can carry out a £50,000 regeneration of Aberkenfig Square.

Laleston Community Council is to get £18,000 towards the provision of a youth shelter and teenage play equipment on Bryntirion playing fields. This scheme is set to cost £48,380 in total.

Refurbishment of Bryncethin Pavilion is also being planned by St Bride's Minor Community Council, which is to spend £13,600 on the work in total and will get £6,502 from BCBC.

Bridgend Town Council is to receive £4,400, which is half the cost of the work to restore the statue of Britannia on the war memorial in Dunraven Place.

Brackla Community Council will get almost £6,000 for its scheme to improve Tremains Wood, and Ynysawdre will get £2,650 – half the cost of providing a children's nature park.

In Pyle, the Community Council will get £6,000 for three bus shelters.

The Porthcawl U3A makes music – with a Singalong!

ANOTHER most enjoyable Porthcawl U3A social event took place at The Rest when the Singalong group held its eagerly-awaited summer concert.

Following a similar pattern to previous years, this highly talented and versatile group, admirably trained and directed by group convenor, the Maestro himself, Harry Lowman, once again excelled themselves, receiving a standing ovation from a capacity audience.

This 'sell-out' show was extremely well-conceived and equally well-delivered. A welcome addition to previous performances was the fine piano accompaniment by Nita Davies.

The programme consisted of songs from the shows, with such favourites as 'Ain't Misbehavin' and 'Play a Simple Melody', 'Top of the World', 'Country Roads' and 'Master of the House' with the audience participating, 'when invited', which created an excellent atmosphere.

Two highlights made the afternoon extra special – some of the ladies appeared to be quite excited when their popular leader was featured in the item 'It's Harry I'm planning to marry', and this was closely followed by the whole gentlemen's section appealing in song for the services of a 'Maid'.

'Lo and behold', a rather scantily clothed member, who shall be nameless, appeared as an attractive afternoon maid apparently offering her services, soon to be followed by another member who superbly acted the part of Mrs Mopp.

Once again, the Porthcawl U3A's Singalong group had succeeded in creating an afternoon of enjoyment for members.

In conclusion, Harry Lowman, in response to a vote of thanks by Dr David Parry, who referred to the improved quality of the choir, stated it was not about the standard of the music – but rather to provide a place where all participants could meet together in friendship and enjoy themselves.

There is no doubt they are achieving their purpose.

CLIVE MORT

News from Ewenny and Corntown

AT the last meeting of Ewenny Community Council it was stated that the village hall is managed by the council, whose funds are used to make up the deficit between income and expenditure.

The hall was originally the village school and is a listed building.

The council are currently finalising terms and conditions for bookings to ensure activities are properly run. Telephone 01656 648814 for further information about bookings.

Wick Road Playground: Councillors have met with the Vale Council and await more detailed plans of proposed new play equipment and improvements to access.

The Vale Council will be erecting a new sign to better advertise the facility in the meantime. Once plans are obtained, councillors will be consulting the community and seeking to raise funds.

Post Box: Following the sad loss of the local post office, we are trying to persuade Royal Mail to at least provide a larger post box outside the village shop. The present one does not permit larger letters to be posted.

Highways: We have enquired about a footpath from the Corntown sports pavilion to the Golden Mile Inn (and the cricket club). Funds do not permit this at the present time.

CADETS GIVE A HELPING HAND AT ST JOHN'S FETE

MEMBERS of 2347 Squadron ATC Porthcawl are pictured helping out at the St John's fete on Newton Green last Saturday week.

Litchard teacher goes back to class with a nature reserve!

LITCHARD Junior School teacher Geraint Howell got 'green-fingered' recently – thanks to funding from the General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW) continuing professional development funding programme.

The year-3 teacher was keen to pass on his love of nature and the outdoors to pupils, so Geraint applied for funding to finance a course at St Fagans National History Museum, looking into education for sustainable development and, in particular, woodland activities.

"The course was very helpful and I was able to build up lots of contacts, equipment and resources relating to woodland," explained Geraint.

"For example, I was put in touch with the Wildlife Trust and was able to make use of their free trees initiative. Recently, I was sent free tree saplings, which we have planted at the school. Pupils are now looking forward to watching them grow."

During the course, Geraint explored how woodland can improve the school environment and came away with increased knowledge, which has been put to good use.

The school previously ran a 'seeds and weeds' club for year-6 pupils, but thanks to his attendance on the course, the school now has a nature reserve.

Recently, the club planted a variety of vegetables and pupils will watch them develop in the coming months before eating them!

Geraint said: "The seeds and weeds club is held every Thursday and, even when the weather is not particularly good and we cannot go outside, we use the computer to research nature topics.

"One of our recent activities was to design seed packets.

"The club has had lots of exciting activities, including making bird boxes which have been put in both the Infants and Junior schools so everyone can enjoy the wildlife.

"The club was involved in trying to attract birds to our nature reserve.

"Pupils downloaded bird sounds onto mobile phones from the internet and we used these to see if we could entice them into our reserve."

Litchard Junior School teacher Geraint Howell with two members of the seeds and weeds club.

Threat to school: 'parents should have a choice...'

I REFER to your article on Heol-y-Cyw Primary School (Bridgend GEM, July 19), and would like to address some of the points raised.

First, I would like to point out that I have not, in any of my public comments, suggested that the head or governing body were happy to see the school close, or that they are not 100 per cent committed to the school and its pupils.

However, I have to say I find it curious that Coun Davies and the headteacher, Ms Lynne Bowen-Jones, are so opposed to what is, at the moment, merely a collection of signatures which seeks to gauge public opinion.

Their reaction is akin to what I would expect if we were mounting a campaign to close the school, not SAVE it!

If or when a campaign becomes necessary, this repository of signatures could be a powerful tool. Surely, the education department will find it difficult to ignore hundreds of voices from parents and community?

It is also inaccurate to suggest that the campaign did not inform the school's management of the proposed petition.

I wrote to the head on July 11 to express my support for the school and indicated that I look forward to working with her to save the school from closure.

I also informed Coun Davies, Coychurch Higher Community Council, Janice Gregory AM and Huw Irranca-Davies MP.

I have also been careful to explain to residents that no final decision has yet been made.

I realise that there would have to be a statutory consultation period in advance of any proposed closure and have been communicating this message to residents. This doesn't smack of scaremongering to me.

Parents should have a choice on whether they send their children to the new school in Pencoed and not have the decision foisted upon them.

Alex Williams,
Pencoed

FOOTNOTE:

The GEM did not state that the head and governors were "happy" to see the school close.

The word used was "content", and this was a direct quote from an e-mail sent to one of our reporters by Mr Williams. He did not state that the contents of the e-mail were confidential. The GEM's general policy is not to breach confidences given to staff, but no such request was made.

The GEM did not say that Mr Williams had not informed the school. We simply reported (accurately) comments by the headteacher in which she stated that Mr Williams had never spoken to her.

Your chance to share the community news

I am pleased to inform readers in this area that copies of The GEM can now be obtained from the public library at Sarn Life Long Learning Centre.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Aberkenfig WI

EUNICE WILLIAMS, president of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute (complete with arm in plaster – dog walking can be a dangerous pastime it seems), opened the meeting with a warm welcome to everyone, especially a visitor, Meryl.

'Happy Birthday' was sung to Irene, Dilys, Betty, Kitty and Dorothy Kingston.

There was a discussion regarding forthcoming events such as the August lunch, Link social evening entitled 'Ascot Hats' in September, and autumn council meeting in Barry in October.

The members were also asked to think about themes for decorating a Christmas tree for the competition run by Tondu Wesley Chapel in December.

Eunice urged members to think about volunteering to join the committee at the October AGM, as an extra committee member is needed.

The competition for an item beginning with the letter 'N' was won by Irene and the raffle winner was Dilys.

Eunice thanked the tea hostesses and reminded members that, as there is no meeting in August; the next meeting would be on September 9, when the competition would be for an item beginning with the letter 'M'. The speaker will be Debbie Lavelle, whose subject is entitled 'Dietician'.

Visitors and new members are welcome. Meetings are held at 2pm on the second Wednesday of each month at the Welfare Hall, Aberkenfig. There is no age limit. All are welcome.

Steam loco

A type 60163 steam locomotive that took 10 years to renovate, named Tornado, will be passing along the main railway line through Bridgend county to west Wales between 10.30am-11am on Saturday, July 25 and will be returning around 6.15pm.

Wildlife Trust

THE South and West Wales Wildlife Trust is organising activities for children over the summer holidays, and the next is on Tuesday, July 28, at 10am from the visitor centre at Parc Slip nature reserve, Tondu.

Ceebeebeebies gives children under eight years of age the chance to enjoy the open air and discover wild life on the reserve.

For details, call 01656 724100.

SHOUT forum

THE Ogmore Vale branch of SHOUT, which assists over-50s with various problems, is organising trips, including one on the *Waverley* paddle steamer in September, the Last Night of the Proms in Swansea, and a tour of St Fagans.

I have also received a plea for anyone who has food co-op bags at home to return them as they are urgently needed for recycling into the food co-op.

Contact Carrie (01656 840937) for information on SHOUT.

Coach trip

THIRTY-FOUR members of Aberkenfig Retired Persons Club recently went on a coach trip to the Old House, Llangynwyd, where they enjoyed a meal paid for by the club.

This ancient thatched inn, appropriately named Yr Hen Dy (The Old House), is reputed to be the oldest inn in south Wales.

Llangynwyd was the birthplace of the local poet and bard Will Hopcyn, whose tragic ill-fated love of local girl, Ann Thomas, is said to be the basis of the old Welsh legend - The Maid of Cefn Ydfa.

The club meets at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy every Wednesday from approximately 1.45pm-4pm. Visitors and new members welcome. More information from Joyce/Tom on 01656 720823/720026.

School fetes

MR M GRIFFITHS of Tynyrheol Primary School, Llangeinor, would like to thank the PTFA for their hard work in organising the school fete.

Unfortunately, the weather wasn't as good as it had been in previous years, but thank you to all who supported the fete. It still managed to produce a profit of approximately £400.

Brynmenyn Primary School – Mr I Thomas, headteacher, would like to thank the school's PTFA for ensuring the success of the school fete.

It was pouring with rain in the morning and Mr Thomas was surprised to get a telephone call at 8.30am from the organisers proposing that the venue be changed to the school hall instead.

These parents deserve a big thank you for their dedication in supporting the pupils at the school.

Charity concert

THE management committee of Sarn and Bryncethin Community Association would like to thank Ogmore Vale Male Voice Choir for agreeing to provide their services at a concert in Sarn Life Long Learning Centre on Saturday, September 5, at 7pm.

The concert is in aid of the 'First Responders' volunteers who provide so much support to the ambulance service in emergency situations.

Tickets cost £3 and can be obtained from members of the management committee, at the Life Centre, or at the door.

Vocalists or small groups, musicians, comedians/iennes or variety acts that would like to participate in the charity concert, or alternatively organise one for a charity of their choice at the above venue, can telephone Clive on 01656 725399.

Come and meet **Dixie, Thea & Co** at Cats Protection open day!

THE Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre is holding a family open day on Saturday, July 25, between 10.30am–4pm.

Special guests will be the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Jefferson Tildesley and Heather McCann, Cats Protection chairman.

Attractions include sports day races, raffle, tombola, stalls, refreshments, children's activity corner, competitions, bouncy castle and barbecue; there is something for all the family.

Visitors can also meet some of the cats currently in the centre's care, who are looking for new homes.

They include: Dixie, a friendly and playful 18-month-old female cat with a big personality and Thea, a beautiful, affectionate nine-year-old female cat.

Sue Dobbs, the centre spokesperson, said: "The Open Day is a great opportunity to enjoy some summertime fun while supporting the charity, which finds new homes for the many unwanted and abandoned cats that come into its care."

Parking is available on site. Admission is £1, children under three admitted free.

For more information, call 01656 724396.

DIXIE.

THEA.

Issues to be tackled after risk assessment

Children top the list of Bridgend borough council priorities...

BRIDGEND County Borough Council has listed its top priorities for the next three years after carrying out a risk assessment.

The top priority is seen as the need to carry out all aspects of school modernisation to provide suitable, well-maintained and well-resourced schools.

The second ranking has been given to the need for early intervention and prevention within children's services – which is that part of Social Services responsible for ensuring that children are not abused or neglected.

The need for action has been highlighted across the whole range of children's services.

Bridgend children's services have only recently emerged from special measures imposed by the Welsh Assembly after failings were found.

Two further second-ranked priorities have been identified – the need for a better regime of repairing the highways in the borough – with a planned approach instead of reacting to problems as they arise.

The council also has to modernise its pay structures to introduce equal pay in order to comply with legislation.

The third ranking priority is listed as the need to create strong working relationships between the children's directorate, the Well Being directorate and partner organisations in order to minimise risk and to promote efficient provision of services.

Also listed as a third priority is the need to remodel adult social care, otherwise existing ways of providing care will be unsustainable, because of the expected growth in the number of older people in the community.

The list also includes the need to deal with outdated, unattractive and unsafe leisure facilities, which are deterring potential customers from participating in leisure activities.

The Audit Committee has been told that action plans have been drawn up to tackle these issues.

'STING' OPERATIONS SEE CLAMPDOWN ON UNDER-AGE SALES

OUT of more than 80 'sting' operations conducted by Bridgend Council's trading standards and licensing departments, only seven resulted in sales of underage goods being made.

A report to Bridgend's cabinet revealed that the council carried out regular visits to premises selling goods like alcohol, tobacco and fireworks which are all age-restricted.

Five test purchasing campaigns were run with the police into alcohol sales, mainly at off licences, when there were 37 attempts to purchase. This resulted in four sales to underage persons.

Two of the offenders have been prosecuted and two have had formal cautions.

Three surveys into the sales of tobacco products took place with 33 attempted purchases by underage people. Three resulted in sales. One caution has been issued while the others are still pending further action.

Council staff also carried out operations into the sales of fireworks and knives, but there were no sales made in either category.

Test purchases will carry on during the current year and will be intelligence-led and pro active. In addition, retailers will be given advice and information about licensing conditions and underage sales.

The council will also be promoting its Validate Proof of Age card with schoolchildren. There are 25,000 such cards now in circulation within the borough.

The department will also be targeting the sale of on-line restricted products, games and DVDs and Lottery scratch cards to ensure that underage people cannot buy them.

Fly fishing team train in Bridgend

England junior fly fishing team at Ogmore Castle with Mr Victor Bonnuto.

THE England youth fly fishing team chose the rivers Ogmore and Ewenny last weekend, as the venue to practise leading up to this year's world championships in the Czech Republic later this month.

The team practised at the Ogmore Castle Fishery, which consists of fishing on both rivers Ogmore and Ewenny, and presents a varied challenge. According to team manager Dave Mee, it is a far more natural and testing environment to fish compared with many of the English rivers.

The team consists of six under 19-year-olds. Youth team committee member Mark Thomas said: "This is a really worthwhile experience for the team, and some members have travelled from as far away as Newcastle to practise here.

"We must thank the fishery proprietor Victor Bonutto for his support in allowing us to use the Ogmore Castle waters. We always get a great welcome in Wales."

The fishery itself is quite unusual, the owner being Her Majesty The Queen via The Duchy of Lancaster. The fishery consists of the Ogmore river at Merthyr Mawr and many miles of the river Ewenny bordering the Vale.

Victor Bonutto said that it is unusual to have private tidal waters in Britain. However, the Duchy of Lancaster have traced the fishing rights back many centuries and in this case they extend down to Ogmore by Sea.

AM joins small school debate

SOUTH Wales West regional AM Alun Cairns is backing residents of Heol-y-Cyw who are opposed to the closure of the village school.

A petition is currently being circulated by Pencoed town councillor Alex Williams, who says that people in the village had fought in the past to keep their post office open, and would now fight for the school.

Mr Cairns said he has always opposed village school closures. He said: "Schools are an important part of the community.

"The Welsh Assembly has recently established a Small Schools Fund to keep schools like Heol-y-Cyw open, and I will be asking whether Bridgend County Borough Council has made an application for funding under this initiative.

"All too often, councils take the easy option of closure for financial reasons but it is the interests of the children, staff and parents which should come first.

"Some children are better suited to being in a smaller school and do not thrive in larger, less intimate schools."

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Work under way on £2m mental health centre

WORK is progressing well on a £2m mental health centre for Bridgend county borough.

ABOVE: An artist's drawing of how the mental health centre will look when finished.

The centre is being built on an area of land at the bottom of Quarella Roa d and Mackworth Street in Bridgend town centre.

It will provide a purpose-built facility for the ARC service – Assisting Recovery in the Community. The ARC team helps local adults with mental health issues by providing structured support and activities that are based in the wider community.

These range from crafts, bowling and cinema trips to golf, fishing or college courses.

ARC is a service run jointly by the council and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University NHS Trust. It received an award in the 2008 NHS Wales awards.

The centre is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and is due to open later this year.

Mynydd Cynffig WI

ON July 14, Mynydd Cynffig WI held its monthly branch meeting in the vestry of Pisgah chapel when 25 members attended.

It was opened by president Mrs Enid Rymer and after business matters were dealt with, Rev Richard Spencer, vicar of St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill, gave a talk about his work as a chaplain to prisoners at Parc Prison near Bridgend.

Mrs Enid Rymer gave a vote of thanks.

Plans are being made for a branch annual outing to Abergavenny with a trip on the Brecon canal, on August 11. During August the branch takes a summer break.

The next meeting will take place on September 8, at Pisgah chapel vestry at 2.30pm. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Maureen Crewe on 01656 749070.

EIRWEN DE VRIES

Debt helpline assistance for Ogmore residents

STRUGGLING householders in Ogmore can now access a new housing debt helpline.

The Welsh Assembly Government has launched the helpline to provide free advice for those who have mortgage or rent arrears, or face eviction or repossession.

The helpline will provide free and impartial advice from experienced debt counsellors. Anyone living in Wales can access the service by ringing 0800 107 1340.

The helpline is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, with support from a leading debt charity, Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS), which will operate the helpline, and the Wales Co-operative Centre which will ensure awareness of its availability among those who need it.

Janice Gregory, AM for Ogmore, said: "The ultimate aim of this helpline is to help people keep a roof over their heads. In the current economic climate, residents need somewhere to turn to for free, professional advice and this helpline will provide that.

"This is another example of the Labour-led Welsh Assembly Government providing a practical innovation to help those who need help. I welcome the efforts of the CCCS and the Wales Co-operative Centre and look forward to working with them in the future."

Miners urged to claim for injuries

VALE MP, John Smith, this week welcomed an announcement that thousands of coal miners suffering from osteoarthritis of the knee, sometimes referred to as 'miners' knee', will be able to claim Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

They should go directly to Jobcentre Plus for help with their claims and avoid paying for solicitors, he said.

For more information on how to claim for the industrial injuries disablement benefit, telephone 0845 758 543.

Seaside at Ilfracombe - Steam Train – Butlins

Welcome Aboard BALMORAL! On board - stroll round the promenade sun decks, enjoy a meal or snack in the self-service restaurant; relax in the restored period lounges & bars or visit the souvenir shop for that special memento of your day. BALMORAL is owned by a Charity & British Registered for 683 passengers. There are special fares for Children and Senior Citizens so BOOK NOW and enjoy a great trip for all the family!

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EVENING CRUISES
THURSDAY JULY 23 Leave 7.30pm back 10pm
THURSDAY AUG 6 Leave 7.30pm back 10pm
WEDNESDAY SEPT 9 Leave 7pm back 9.30pm
Cruise Vale & Heritage Coasts & round Barry Island £15.95 Return by inclusive coach from Penarth Pier

ILFRACOMBE – GLORIOUS DEVON
Coastal Cruises
Senior Citizens only £23 to Ilfracombe
TUESDAY JULY 28 Leave 10am back 8pm
THURSDAY AUGUST 6 Leave 9am back 7.30pm
TUESDAY AUGUST 11 Leave 11.30am back 7.30pm
TUESDAY AUGUST 25 Leave 10.30am back 7.30pm
Set sail for a great day out in Ilfracombe - Glorious Devon £25.95
Or cruise to Ilfracombe & stay aboard for the afternoon cruise viewing the spectacular Exmoor Coast £31

'GWR' STEAM RAILWAY
Minehead • Butlins Fun Day
TUESDAY JULY 28 Leave 10am back 8pm
Sail to Somerset to visit Minehead - enjoy a coach tour over Exmoor & cruise home from Ilfracombe £39 Or sail to Minehead and join the West Somerset Railway for a trip through the beautiful somerset Countryside and charming country stations. Enjoy a coach tour over Exmoor & cruise home from Ilfracombe – inclusive fare £35. Or choose a great day out for the family at Butlins in Minehead - inclusive fare £35

SHORT TRIPS FOR KIDS
HERITAGE CRUISE COAST
THURSDAY JULY 30 Leave 1.45pm back 3pm
BANK HOLIDAY MON AUG 31 Leave 2.30pm back 5pm
Enjoy an afternoon cruise sailing along the Glamorgan Heritage coast £9.95; on Aug 31 fare £15.95

WATERMOUTH CASTLE & FAMILY THEME PARK
THURSDAY AUGUST 6 Leave 9am back 7.30pm
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END OF TERM NEWS

In and out of the classroom at Pencoed Comprehensive

Taster sessions

PUPILS from years-8 and year-9 (and staff!) recently enjoyed a day of 22 different activities including street dancing, local history, American football, theatrical make-up, cheerleading, belly dancing, pyrography, jewellery and card making.

These were taster activities organised by staff from the Llanharan Drop-In Centre, who hope to be able to obtain funding for running such activities at Ysgol Pencoed.

Ysgol Pencoed's year-12 pupils did a splendid job in arranging a strawberry tea party in school recently, as well as a range of other activities with local primary schools.

A non school uniform day was also held and more than £2,000 was raised for cancer research.

The sixth form and year-11 pupils organised their own prom evenings at the end of term. We're very pleased that their excellent behaviour was commended by the staff at the venues where the proms were held.

We wish them all the best for either their return to school in September or their move into the world of work or onto higher education.

Best wishes also for the external examination results days on August 20 (A-Level and AS-Level) and on August 27 (GCSE).

Off-site activities

JULY 16 was activities day; pupils enjoyed visits organised by staff to Oakwood, Cardiff, London, as well as a cinema visit and surfing and paintballing activities.

A number of year-12 pupils took part in a Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award expedition to the Gower recently. Everyone enjoyed themselves – despite the torrential rain!

Some staff and pupils travelled further afield, having visited Barcelona and Waldsassen for a few days just before the end of term.

The visit to Barcelona included visits to Barcelona FC's football ground, the Olympic Stadium and the Port Adventure Theme Park, as well as shopping in the Corte Ingles and taking part in Spanish dancing.

Sports report

WE offer congratulations to all those who took part in the school's summer sports day at the end of term. Owain House were the proud winners.

A large number of our pupils took part in the NAS/UWT athletics district championships held in Leckwith, Cardiff in June. Seven of our pupils took first places (with four of these breaking school records that had been held for the last 11-15 years); two were second, five third, and two were fourth.

The relay teams also did well in the final rounds, with one team achieving second, one achieving third and two achieving fourth.

Year-7 pupils also did very well at the athletics championships in Aberdare early in July.

Also during June, 90 pupils took part in the 5x 60 Summer Games held at the Bridgend Recreation Centre.

Staff changes

FAREWELL to the following staff who were leaving us at the end of the summer term – Gethin Phillips who'll be joining Bishop Vaughan School in Swansea as head of science; Emma Loyns, teacher of music, who is leaving to spend more time with her young family, and Jennie Jones, who is retiring as sixth form assistant, having spent many years at the school before then as a teacher. Good wishes to you all.

From September, we look forward to welcoming the following new staff: Steven Rees, teacher in charge of physics, Laura Morgan as teacher of RE, and Gill Peddle as science technician.

Enid Connick will be retiring as teacher of geography, but returning to Ysgol Pencoed in her new role as sixth form assistant.

Congratulations to Jayne Jenkins, Andrea Beaton, Michele and Lauren Halse, who have recently completed the Race for Life. raising £900 for breast cancer.

Community news

THE senior citizens lunchtime club continue to meet at 12pm every Tuesday and Thursday.

During the summer term, they visited both the design and technology and art departments to see pupils' work.

The older people enjoyed the opportunity of seeing for themselves how much the school environment has changed since they were in school, and were very appreciative of the high standard of work produced by pupils of all ages.

Representatives from Age Concern also came along toward the end of term, providing useful advice on how to cope with very hot weather.

Age Concern had also arranged for the Fire Service to provide some very useful advice on fire safety in the home.

The lunchtime club will start back on Tuesday, September 8.

Don't forget the PTA car boot sales at Ysgol Pencoed on August 2 and September 6!

LINDA HARPWOOD

Carnival is planning big day in Porthcawl

ABOVE and BELOW: Scenes from last year's Porthcawl Carnival.

THE organisers of Porthcawl Carnival say everything is looking good the festival day this Saturday (July 26) – and all they need is good weather!

Kerry Marlow of Porthcawl Buckaneers told The GEM that there had been extra entries for the carnival floats this year, and other groups would be joining the procession, which would make it bigger and better than last year.

He said: "The theme for the floats this year is 'children's stories'. From what we gather from the entrants, the floats are going to be as colourful as ever.

"There are also numerous walkers dressed to entertain!"

He continued: "This is a local event for the enjoyment of the Porthcawl community. In addition, it provides opportunities for local charities and good causes to raise much-needed funds.

"As Buckaneers all the money we raise is donated to the community".

On the carnival field after the procession, there will be a number of attractions and displays by local groups, in particular, cheerleaders from Kenfig Hill and the Kayleigh Irish Dancers from the Garw.

The carnival committee has also arranged a 'Porthcawl's got talent' competition'.

Mr Marlow added: "We have a licence to collect on Friday, July 24, when we will be visiting all the local hostelries. So dig deep and help us with raising funds!

"We will also be collecting on carnival day, and we would like to thank in advance the Porthcawl Christmas Swim committee, and the Sandville Self-Help Centre, who assist us with our collections."

Floats already entered are from Porthcawl Town Council (Harry Potter); Bright Beginnings Nursery (Alice in Wonderland); Sandpiper Inn (Jack and the Beanstalk); Sandville Self-Help (Where's Wally); Porthcawl Rugby Club (Treasure Island); All Saints Church (Peter Pan); New Brogden (Alice in Brogden Land); Ancient Briton (Wind in the Willows); and the Dance Centre (101 Dalmatians).

This year, the procession will start from Sandy Bay (at the rear of Newton School) at 1.30pm. As usual, the procession is expected to take around 90 minutes as it winds its way through Porthcawl, before arriving at the South Road rugby ground of Porthcawl RFC.

Entertainment on the rugby ground is expected to last until the early evening, with the usual mix of fairground rides, stalls, and shows.

Congregation will remember Cpl Dean on Carnival day

THIS year's Porthcawl Carnival will be a poignant occasion for members of Trinity Church – because a popular soldier who was always first in line to drive the church's carnival float was killed in Afghanistan in March.

Cpl Dean John, 25, of Port Talbot, was killed by a roadside bomb in Helmand province in Afghanistan on 15 March, just days before he was due to finish his tour of duty.

Dawn Morgan of Trinity Church told The GEM: "Dean was associated with our carnival float for several years.

"He didn't just drive the lorry; he joined in with the whole spirit of the day. He helped with last minute preparations, did running repairs to our fragile and often wind-battered scenery, and always helped with the dismantling of the float at the end of the afternoon.

"Nothing was too much trouble for him, he would stop the lorry on route to repair our music system, and he drove the lorry with such care, and always waited to hear the results and joined in our excitement if we had won a prize.

"During the carnival route, he would often sound the horn of the lorry, making all our children squeal with delight and all the spectators cheer and wave. He was full of enthusiasm."

She concluded: "We at Trinity Church are very proud to have known Dean, to have shared a very small part of his life and will remember him with fondness."

Dean John, who was married with three children, had a life-long love of engines and trucks. In fact, he was driven to his funeral service in Margam Crematorium on the back of a brand new lorry.

His colleague, 24-year-old Cpl Graeme Stiff from Grimsby, lost his life in the same blast.

Cpl Dean John.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THERE will be a blood donors' session on Friday, July 31, at the Mobile Donation Clinic, Bridgend Designer Outlet, The Derwen, Bridgend, at 10.45am-12.30pm and 2pm-6.30pm.

OGMORE SURGERIES

OGMORE MP Huw Irranca-Davies will be holding surgeries in the Garw Valley and Evanstown on Friday, July 31 by appointment only.

To make an appointment and find out further details, telephone the MP's constituency office and advice centre on 01656 737777.

Bridgend Show has to battle the elements

THE whole point of an agricultural show is to celebrate country living – but sometimes this means acknowledging that the sun does not always shine.

You can't have lush green fields with cows and sheep grazing contentedly without the occasional downpour.

That was the message that visitors could take home from this year's Bridgend Show, which had to cope with heavy rain on its opening day (Saturday, July 11) at its Pencoed College home.

As these photographs by Glyn Evans (taken on Sunday) show, there were definitely some areas where the conditions underfoot were a little difficult.

However, the marquees, especially those showing livestock and poultry, were very busy as the judges went about their business.

In fact, the livestock categories were more numerous this year, as the farming community recovers from Foot and Mouth movement restrictions.

There was also keen competition in all the equestrian classes, both in showing and in show jumping.

In the main ring of the show, motorcycle stunt riders thrilled the crowd with their act, and there was also a flying display – put on by 'Wings Over Wales'.

ABOVE:
Lovely weather for ducks, but these were ornamental!

MIND YOUR STEP!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

ABOVE: 'Are you looking at my beard?'

Local objections to road and houses

I ATTENDED the public meeting held at Llantwit Major last week, which was arranged to discuss the Metrix/WAG proposals to build the northern access road, and service houses to serve the proposed defence college at St Athan.

Many questions were raised with Metrix and Welsh Assembly officers, and it was evident that the majority of those present are against the proposals.

I would remind everyone that if they wish to object to the plans, they should write to the Head of Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Docks Office, Barry CF63 4RT and I would be grateful to receive a copy of their letter.

Again, I would remind residents that only Vale of Glamorgan councillors are allowed to speak at the planning meeting to represent their constituents.

The Llantwit Major ward has one member on the planning committee – Coun Eric Hacker, and he will have a vote on the final outcome.

Coun Hacker cannot attend public meetings, or deal with the issues before the plans come before the planning committee.

This is a legal requirement in planning law, so you may send your comments to the other three Vale councillors representing you.

I hope that this information will help.

Coun Gwyn John, Llantwit Major (Vale of Glamorgan councillor)

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

OLD HALL – A PEOPLE TRAP?

COWBRIDGE Old Hall's street exterior is interesting, but inside it is a jumble of small rooms at different levels, connected by narrow corridors and small narrow stairways.

During the last but one craft fair held there, it filled to such density that I was jammed in at the top of one stairway.

I was unable to move in any direction, and failed to see the whole of the exhibitions, due to it being scattered among the many small rooms.

Fortunately, there were no serious incidents, but obviously there was a serious excess of people for the capacity of the building and its facilities.

There was a lack of air conditioning and in no way could there be a swift and safe evacuation, in the event of fire, which is very much a risk in the tinder-dry materials of the stairways and first floors. A more suitable venue should be used for future events.

Gordon Deaves, Cowbridge

GEM footnote: The Vale Council said they were investigating the matter and would provide a response for next week.

'We destroy wild life at our peril'

I COULDN'T agree more with Mrs DEC Herridge (writing in last week's GEM). When I was mobile, I used to walk by the greenhouses of which she writes, along the little narrow footpath, coming out on Barry Road.

As well as the ubiquitous (and pernicious) Ragwort, I am sure she is right to say that there must be a multitude of tiny creatures, mammals, feathered (and many of the insect world), living out their lives there.

We destroy these areas at our peril! Remember the Brazilian rain forest, sustainer of the great River Amazon?

It is now in danger of totally ceasing to exist.

Geraint Jenkins, Barry

Annie is amazing!

LAST night (Friday) I attended a performance of *Annie,* which was a fabulous show presented by Pukka Productions.

More shows are needed like this in our town. Little 'Annie' was truly amazing and funny with a voice as sweet as an angel, so good in fact that I am going to see the show again this afternoon.

The remaining cast were as funny and entertaining as always.

Maureen Chapman, Barry

'Well done to the council workmen'

I WOULD like to express my thanks to the council who get many complaints, but not many thanks.

They have just cleaned up the washing line area and paths of overgrown weeds at the rear of Stewart Road, Rhoose.

Many thanks to the workmen for a job well done.

CT Nettleship, Rhoose

'Vale MP is in the news again'

I SEE that our Vale MP, John Smith, has had his name in lights again – named in a national daily paper.

I mentioned in a letter to this newspaper not too long ago that his record of voting left much to be desired, but this time, in the Opposition Day vote to have Gary McKinnon tried in the UK, I think he excelled himself.

It was probably his last chance of redemption in my eyes and yet, no matter his constituents' sensibilities, he refused to vote against the party line. Shame on him.

Gerwyn Thomas, Llantwit Major

Dogs Trust says 'thank you all'

THE dogs and staff at Dogs Trust Bridgend would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who supported their open day and fun dog show on Sunday, July 12.

It was incredibly successful and a whopping £10,500 was raised – the largest amount so far!

Dogs Trust Bridgend is home to around 80 dogs at any one time, and the money raised will directly provide for their care until loving new homes are found.

Linda Feagan
Supporter relations officer,
Dogs Trust Bridgend,
Pen-y-Fai

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

Why this fascination with dull metal boxes?

IF you are a driver, you might well agree that the most difficult part of operating your car is learning how to use the heating/ventilation/air conditioning system.

Can you set the timer on your video-recorder? Dare I say that it probably depends upon your age? There seems to be something about an array of buttons and knobs that we find off-putting – because we can't see what is happening on the inside.

I assume that you are reading this because you have either an interest in computers, or are curious about why on earth anybody else would.

You might be thinking of buying one, but are bewildered by the range of choice and price.

Perhaps you have been given one and are wondering what use it can be to you beyond a handy and expensive doorstop. There again, you might simply be surprised at all the fuss made about computers, and how many are around.

They are, after all mostly dull metal boxes with wires hanging from them and linked to a keyboard and screen and gizmos variously called a mouse, scanner, printer, fax, digital this and digital that.

So what is it that attracts the members of Penarth Computer Club to these boxes? There are probably more reasons than there are members, but let's look at some: We do not take ourselves too seriously and accept that one reason is to be able to grasp what the youngsters who have grown up with computers are talking about.

Some people have grown used to using the box at work and want to find out a little of what happens inside it. Some find that the box can be useful because of what it can do – whether it makes it possible to type a letter and make endless corrections until it is just right, to add up columns of numbers, or do far more complex sums quickly and easily.

True, there are those who are simply fascinated by the technology. The club members generally are more interested in the usefulness of applications than the complexities of the clever bits inside the box.

The main thrust of what we do emphasises how to get the computer to help with the tasks we want to do and how to apply its power to our purpose.

The vacuum cleaner has been around for more than 100 years and still picks up dust from a carpet. The computer has been around for about 60 years and started life as a calculating device.

It still does the calculations, of course, but in the last few years has picked up other little tricks like email, the internet communications that transmit voice, music and pictures.

Computers in digital cameras are putting the old roll-film manufactures almost out of business. The computer is a camera, video camera, a telephone, a drawing instrument, a typewriter, a film player, a music player. It is a copier, a printer, a facsimile machine.

Computers can help artists to create or compose. Anyone can improve their digital photographs. They are projectors for films and slide shows.

They can help you to design your home, office or garden layout or research your family tree.

The reasons for interest are many; the common thread is a wish to improve our ability to produce what we want with a tool that is so versatile.

The club helps people new to computers to be comfortable with their machine. We try to help them to avoid problems and show them ways of doing things more easily.

The members themselves suggest topics for inclusion in our programme and some simply show us what they do on their computer and how they do it.

Did I mention that our motto is that we are The Friendly Club? For more information, telephone 029 2070 8439.

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LOCAL STUDENTS SHARE THEIR 'BIG IDEAS' WITH LEEKES AND WIN A PRIZE

WHEN Leekes launched their 'Big Ideas' home make-over campaign in store recently, they also invited local schools to share their own 'Big Ideas' for improving their school, with all entrants in with a chance of seeing their 'idea' brought to life.

First Prize winners.

Spokeswoman Nicola Wilkes explained: "Pupils were asked to draw their ideas on a piece of paper.

"Suggestions could be as simple as creating a school garden for everyone to enjoy, through to much-needed new windows, or even fitness equipment for a new school gym.

"No idea was too big or too small and for three lucky winners it meant that Leekes would work closely with them to create something that will make a real difference to the school, staff and pupils.

"With all the entries judged and prizes awarded, Leekes presented the winning first, second and third prizes in Llantrisant and the surrounding areas to the following schools at a prizegiving event in store."

The winning schools were:

● Gwaunmeisgyn Primary School – Year 5/6 Learning Support Class whose ideas for a garden area, complete with a sandpit, flowerbed and vegetable garden, won over the judges at Leekes.

They were awarded £500 of store vouchers, and invited to work with Leekes home improvement expert, Liam Pritchard, to develop the project and see their 'Big Idea' brought to life.

● Llanhari Primary School – Jessica Wigley (Class 5 – age 9) wanted to build an adventure tree house in the school grounds.

The class have now chosen their own version from Leekes' range of playhouses and are working with Liam Pritchard to find the perfect spot for it.

● Llantrisant County Primary School – Class 1 Nursery/Reception's big idea was to have their very own fish tank, and the class were invited into store to choose their fish.

Second Prize winners.

Pencoed fundraiser has £1,000 in sight for RAF

A PENCOED man is getting close to his personal goal of raising £1,000 for the RAF.

Roy Penny was in the Pencoed branch of the Co-op last Saturday, selling raffle tickets for the cause, and raised £440.

He told The GEM: "Other fundraising events have pushed the fund past £800, so I am hoping to reach the target soon."

Roy joined the RAF in the 1950s, as part of his national service, and remembers flying Dakotas from St Athan to Malta during the Suez crisis.

RIGHT: Co-op manager Mike Hockridge congratulates Roy Penny on his fundraising efforts. (Photograph by MANDY THOMAS).

'No Camper Vans' – call by a Tory AM

REGIONAL AM Alun Cairns has come out in support of a petition being organised in Porthcawl – against plans to set up a site for camper vans at Rest Bay.

He said: "I would like to endorse the campaign in the town against this development.

"I felt right from the word go that this was a ridiculous suggestion on the part of the borough council.

"I am glad that it has been deferred for a rethink and I trust that councillors and officers will realise that the idea is a complete non-starter."

The petition is being organised by Porthcawl Civic Trust and is being backed by Porthcawl Town Council, which has come out against the plan.

He said: "I agree that the camper van site should go to Sandy Bay. It's the natural place for it, with all the facilities and amenities of the town and of Trecco Bay close at hand.

"Rest Bay is eminently unsuitable – being too far out of town and located in an area of unspoilt beauty," he commented.

New president takes the helm, for second time

RIGHT: Rotary's new president, David Hubbard.

The Rotary Club of Bridgend has elected a new president.

He is David Hubbard, a retired chartered accountant, who lives with his wife Dianne in Laleston.

David has been a Rotarian since 1992 and had previously been president of the Rotary Club of Northwich in Cheshire, but transferred to the Bridgend club when he moved to Wales in 2003

At the recent handover dinner, when David took over from retiring president Doug John, he announced the main programme for the year – the 'End Polio Now' campaign.

Bill Gates has donated 100 million dollars to polio eradication and he has challenged Rotary worldwide to match this amount.

Bridgend intends to do its bit by holding a fund raising concert, and also by involving local schools in the 'Purple Pinkie' project.

This is to raise awareness that in third world countries, when a polio vaccine has been given to a child the little finger is dyed purple, to signify that they have been inoculated against the disease.

Many other projects are planned for the year, including a race night and a casino night, as well as the Reindeer Sleigh at Christmas.

In addition, there will be the usual schools' competitions of Young Musician, Youth Speaks and Young Chef.

The club membership in Bridgend will soon reach 40 Rotarians, and they will all be kept busy on the various programmes for the year.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

St Canna's

ST CANNA'S Llangan 100 Club summer draw winners were:

First, John Rosser; second, Shiela Jones; third, Ron Groom; fourth, Liz Mathews, fifth, John Tucker.

Reminder

St Canna's services are held on the second Sunday of the month and Eucharist on the fourth Sunday.

Both services will begin at 11.45am. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.

FOR several weeks, I have wondered how and why the verges between the motorway bridge and the Ruthin Chapel on the busy Pencoed-Pentre Meurig Road have been litter-free... On Sunday, July 19, I found the answer – the one responsible for this chore is none other than Llangan community councillor for Ruthin and St Mary Hill, Keith Jones, who has taken on this task voluntarily.

If only members of the public would follow his example, we would indeed enjoy a clean and pleasant land.

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A great deal has happened at Sam Smith Travel since September last year.

Firstly, as a result of the failure of the XL Group, we acquired the Travel City International Sports Division, which was headed by one of South Wales' best known sports travel directors Jim Strachan, who with his staff ran an excellent and very successful sports travel operation which unfortunately became a victim of the parent company's collapse.

We re-named the company Strachan Travel with Jim and his very experienced team of Ken Beecher and Julie Whittingham who now operate as a part of the Sam Smith Travel Group from their suite of offices at the Cardiff International Arena where they were recently joined by Angharad Griffiths from our Corporate Department.

Sam Smith Travel has always had a very successful Corporate Travel operation which has operated from Cowbridge, but as a result of the changes to the office in Cowbridge and the acquisition of the office in Cardiff, I have decided that it is only sensible to **move our Corporate Travel Division to the CIA**, which is much closer to many of our main clients in the city, and so Ceri Davey and Nicola Gater will move to the CIA **with effect from 3rd August.**

Our Leisure Travel Office with Cathy, Sue and Heather will continue to **operate from Cowbridge** although we have decided to change our opening hours to fall in line with the Consulate, so **from 3rd August** we will **open from 09.30 until 17.00 Monday to Friday** but will now **close on Saturdays**, which falls in line with the current hours of the Royal Netherlands Consulate which is co-located with us and which will become one of only eight in the United Kingdom to accept Biometric Passport and Visa applications.

Our facilities here in Cowbridge will be unchanged, indeed we now have access to a wider range of products than ever, with the airfares in particular which we are able to provide, matching those of major national players.

So, a new era for Sam Smith Travel, but still the same friendly personal and efficient service which we have always offered.

I hope that we can look forward to your continued support.

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BARRY AIR CADETS OFFER 'EXCITING' ACTIVITIES FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS

BARRY Air Cadets are looking forward to some flying, sport, adventurous training and shooting this summer.

372 (Barry) Squadron, have vacancies for young men and women between 13-18 years old, to join an exciting, challenging and fast moving youth organisation.

Air Cadets have the opportunity to fly and glide in two military aircraft, often taking control under pilot supervision.

The more brave Cadets try aerobatics!

Cadets can also try their hand at abseiling, canoeing, hill walking, camping, navigation, shooting and team building exercises.

The Squadron is also actively involved at all levels of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

The Cadets' general fitness, skills and team working are always encouraged to improve through football, rugby, hockey, netball, athletics and swimming.

The highlight of a Cadet's year is attendance at a Royal Air Force station for one or two weeks; living and breathing the Royal Air Force at first hand.

The Cadets not only work hard for themselves but also within their community, through fundraising and hands-on assistance.

Cadet Ryan McPeake said: "It is great fun and we get to do loads of exciting activities all the time".

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour. You can email 372@air-cadets.org or telephone the Squadron on 01446 747734 for more information about joining or the Air Training Corps.

High-flying Cadets!

Sugarloaf.

Team building exercise.

Spencer returns from Osaka ranked No 5 in the world!

INSTRUCTORS of the Rising-Sun-Kyokushin Karate Club came back from Osaka, Japan, feeling proud of their achievement after visiting the country for the World Full Contact Championships.

Lee Bennett 3rd Dan (sensei), went through to the second round of the competition to face an experienced Japanese competitor.

Lee seemed to dominate the first round of the match and pick off his opponent repeatedly, but the Japanese judges scored the match a draw, which meant there was to be a two-minute extension round.

The first part of the round again saw Lee's opponent push forward towards the end of the match.

Lee commented: "All the flags went up for the Japanese fighter, which I thought was a little unfair."

Sempai Spencer Bennett (2nd Dan) took a proud fifth place after three relentless battles against the world-class opposition.

The first was against a competitor from Nepal. In the second round, he faced an ex-middleweight world champion. It was very evenly matched and the bout was scored a draw, which meant a final extension round.

Spencer dominated his opponent, gaining all five of the referees' flags.

He went on to the quarter-finals to face a Russian competitor. After receiving treatment for a swollen ankle, Spencer was advised by the doctors not to continue in the tournament; but after persuading the medical team he was ok, he continued the bout with the injury. He lost on a minority decision.

Spencer is now ranked No 5 in the world and he received a traditional Japanese certificate for his efforts in the prestigious award ceremony.

The Rising-Sun-Kyokushin Karate Club train at the YMCA HUB, beginners classes 7pm-8pm Fridays, first lesson free. Colcot Sports Centre, 4-5 year olds, Rising-Sun-Rising-Stars Sundays 11am-12pm. All Instructors are fully qualified, hold CRBs, first aid certificates and are insured with WKGB (Welsh Karate Governing Body) and All Japan Kyokushin Union.

For more information, contact Lee on 07861 699476

Cadoxton and Barry in pre-season merger

AT a joint meeting of the committees of Barry and Cadoxton Football Clubs held on July 15 at the Castle Hotel, Barry FC agreed to an approach from Cadoxton FC for a merger of the two clubs.

Cadoxton bring South Wales Senior League status as well as a Vale of Glamorgan League division two side to the table, while Barry will, in addition to the Vale of Glamorgan Premier League side that finished third last season, bring a strength and depth to the new club.

If all goes to plan, Cadoxton Barry FC will field a south Wales senior league, playing out at Jenner Park, two Vale of Glamorgan League sides, and youth teams.

Wanderers get there in tense run chase

MOUNTAIN ASH v BARRY WANDERERS

AFTER a fortnight of frustration – thanks to the weather, Barry Wanderers travelled into the Valleys in a bid to kick-start their season, after their previous defeat to Bridgend was followed by two postponements.

Mountain Ash's opening pair of Roberts and Coles quickly put on 35 for the first wicket.

This prompted Keir to bring on first-team debutant John Williams, and it proved an inspired move, as he had Coles caught at gully by Barratt for 16 in his first over. Williams would bowl through his allotted nine overs with great accuracy but with no further success, finishing with very tight figures of 9-2-28-1.

Mountain Ash continued scoring runs with relative ease. The Wanderers' bowlers put in a great effort but they were not backed up by their fielders.

After Blundell had Shelliard bowled for eight, Roberts and Moses scored 51 runs in eight overs and put their side in a strong position at 101-2 off 23.

The breakthrough came when Roberts was stumped by Keir off Blundell for 52. However, a number of dropped catches allowed Moses and Harris to push on, and the hosts finished on 198-4.

The visitors were aware that they could put it right with the bat, although the chase didn't start well with Bowen and Thomas going for two and nought respectively.

It didn't get better soon after with Barratt also going cheaply, out caught off Cooper for three. The Wanderers were 41-3 off 10 overs, the only plus being that among the chaos, Gareth Lanagan was holding everything together and continuing the great form he had shown all season.

He was now joined at the crease by Rob Tucker and together they guided their team to a good position of 116-3. Lanagan was then caught off the bowling of Williams for 62, but young Luke Denning and Tucker kept the scoreboard ticking over and the Wanderers looked comfortable on 161-4 with 10 overs remaining.

However, Denning and Tucker fell in quick succession for 11 and 61, and suddenly the Seasiders were under pressure with two new men at the crease.

The tension was cranked up further when Fenton was bowled by Harris without scoring.

Mountain Ash brought the field in and runs were hard to come by, but some good running and clever shot placement allowed Blundell and Keir to creep nearer to their target. They held their nerve and got to the required 199 with three wickets remaining in the 39th over.

Keir finished on 16 not out, and Blundell 14 not out. A tense game, but a victory that was the result of a good batting effort against a good bowling outfit.

The Wanderers' promotion push continues at home next week against Lisvane.

The SofaSofa Barry Wanderers man-of-the-match was Rob Tucker for his big hitting and calm head in the middle overs, which set-up the victory for his side.

END OF SUMMER TERM NEWS FROM YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG

Left to right: Huw Morgan, Lloyd Thomas, Tom Williams, and Huw Morris.

ABOVE: Pupils pictured enjoying activities on their recent trip to Germany.

Callum Paget, who received a special commendation.

ABOVE: The Outward Bound group line up for a photo shoot. RIGHT: a makeshift raft.

Outward Bound

IT has once again been a busy last few weeks at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

Various extra-curricular activities have proven to be an enriching and rewarding experience for many of the pupils. Year-9 visited Glanllyn and spent a fantastic week enjoying outdoor pursuits.

German visit for year-9

ANOTHER group participated in the annual exchange with Germany, visiting Grünstadt.

Year-7 visit

THE year-7's theme for their final skills day of the year was 'The Vale'.

They learnt about various aspects of the geography and history of the Vale, then worked together in groups to practice their communication skills, producing amusing and creative adverts to promote the Vale of Glamorgan.

Year-7 have also visited Cosmeston with the history department.

Prize-giving ceremony

Congratulations to all the winners in the school's prize-giving ceremony this year.

They were nominated by staff for displaying excellent work ethic and academic excellence during the year.

A special commendation was made to Callum Paget for working with others.

He is pictured (far left) with Mrs Margaret Harris, who has donated this award to the school.

Awards time for the rugby team

THE school first fifteen's annual presentations of trophies were held recently.

Recipient of the player of the year award was Lloyd Thomas; Huw Morris and Tom Williams were captain and vice-captain; Huw Morgan most committed; and Tom Williams most improved.

Congratulations also to the boys under-16 athletics team, who won a fantastic second place in the Welsh Championships held recently in Brecon.

(Pictures by Athletau Brecon)

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FOR GEM readers everywhere – not just the Vale and Bridgend – the great news is that there is an on-line edition of the newspaper.

It means that if a copy of the paper is not to hand, it can still be accessed on a computer screen within seconds by going to *www.barry-today.co.uk*, *www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk*, *www.cowbridge-today.co.uk*, or *www.bridgend-today.co.uk* – depending on the edition a person wants to read.

People who used to live in south Wales, but now live abroad, have the chance to regularly catch up with news in the Vale and Bridgend.

The on-line GEM turns pages at the click of a button and there is a simple 'zoom' tool to magnify the text.

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Ben Edwards, the marketing manager of PageSuite, who have provided the software for the new venture, said: "We are positive GEM readers will love their new digital newspapers. Our software is used by top publishers the world over – with more than one million customers reading PageSuite digital editions every month.

"We have a stylish and easy to use interface, incredible search and share tools, and can be downloaded and printed to be read off-line too."

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MUSIC COMPETITION COMES TO PORTHCAWL

LEFT: Some of the Competitors waiting back-stage for their moment in the spotlight.

BELOW: The three judges (left to right): Eric Roberts, soloist with the Welsh National Opera Company, Keith Cheetam, film and TV director (including past Dr Who series), Erica Beynon, director of Col Canto.

Patrick Wheatley

Coun David Newton-Williams presents Patricia O'Neill with a Town Council Shield.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH E MORGAN

THE semi-final of the second. 'Can You Sing' music competition was held at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, recently.

It was organised by the well-known, Porthcawl-based soprano Patricia O'Neill, and more than 60 youngsters took part.

Paul Greenway accompanied many of the competitors on the piano, with the judges having the difficult task of choosing who should go through to the final, to be held in the Riverside Theatre, Newport, in September.

The competition was compéred by Patrick Wheatley, husband of Patricia O'Neil, and the opening address was given by Coun David Newton-Williams, last year's Mayor of Porthcawl.

Coun Newton-Williams presented Patricia O'Neill with a Porthcawl Town Council coat of arms plaque, in recognition of the "cultural work" that she has carried out in the community.

This year, the competition has grown, with singers coming from al over Wales – and there were many entries from outside Wales as well.

Local competitors who made it the final were:

12 - 14 age group: **Catrin Elizabelt Thomas** (Bridgend) and **Joe Wiltshire-Smith** (Porthcawl).

15 - 17 age group: Catherine Walters and Charlotte Hatchett (both Porthcawl) who will be familiar to anyone who sat Porthcawl Comprehensive School's production of *Jekyll and Hyde*.

18 - 21 age group; Helen Victoria Davies of Bridgend.

There is also strong Porthcawl interest in the vocal group section with Porthcawl girl group Lace making it to the final, along with a duo, Jess and Joe (Jessica Evans and Joe Wiltshire-Smith).

The adjudicators also decided to award three beginners' prizes to children who had been having lessons for less than two years, but who did not progress to the semi-final.

The prizes were shared between: Tabitha Carrington – Porthcawl; Alexia Richmond – Bridgend; Daniel Bilbao – Cardiff; Brooke Hale – Bristol; Cerian Medi Williams – Clydach; Elinor Toogood – Cardiff and Alana Jade Walburn – Porthcawl.

Town's Lifeguard Club presents 'a surf spectacle...'

IN a historic 50th year for the Porthcawl Lifeguard Club (PLGC), it is proud to be hosting what promises to be an exciting weekend spectacle of beach, surf and lifesaving skills at Coney Beach on August 1-2.

The Surf Life Saving Association of Wales, the largest Welsh volunteer organisation for ocean rescue with 26 voluntary lifeguard clubs currently affiliated, is holding its 2009 Welsh Openwater Lifesaving Championships in Porthcawl.

PLGC is making every effort to make the weekend a great event for spectators, as well as ensuring an exciting sporting experience for the surf lifesaving clubs across Wales who will be converging on Coney Beach.

Karen Harris, the club secretary, said: "In order to provide a quality championship venue, PLGC have 'adopted' Coney Beach under the Marine Stewardship Council's 'Adopt a Beach' scheme. There will be a pre-competition beach clean at 5pm on July 29 – and any local volunteers willing to help with the quarterly clean-up will be warmly welcomed!"

PLGC chairman, Ben Longhurst, added: "Porthcawl Lifeguards also wish to thank Bridgend County Council for their kind support of £2,000 from the Events Grant Scheme."

Karen added: "The PLGC Nippers have already been active this year, and the club is also hosting the Porthcawl Nipper Carnival on Sunday, August 9 – well worth turning out to support our youngsters in a great activity."

The events mark a year where the club is going from strength to strength and with a new clubhouse being given the go-ahead, the PLGC volunteers will have a lot to celebrate at their 50th anniversary Black Tie dinner on November 7 at the Hi-Tide.

Tickets can be obtained from the club secretary. Friends and members, old and new, will be welcomed.

Cornelli celebrates

(SEE PAGE 40)

Here are some more pictures from Bridgend School's football presentation evening.

Golden boot winner Jorge Crofts.

Corneli captain Hywel Park and manager Alex Clarke with the league trophy.

REGIONAL AM 's CALL...

'These food procedures need to be improved'

SOUTH WALES Conservative AM Alun Cairns is calling for the law to be changed to reduce the chance of cross-contamination of foods.

Mr Cairns was speaking in a debate at the National Assembly into the E.coli outbreak which started in the premises of Bridgend butcher William Tudor.

Five-year-old Mason Jones died during the 2005 outbreak and 150 other victims – many of them children ate contaminated meat served in school dinners.

Mr Cairns stated that the public inquiry revealed that the contamination was caused by cooked meat and uncooked meat being processed by the same vacuum packing machine.

Environmental health inspectors had no power to order that two separate machines be used, and the inquiry heard that it was impossible to clean the equipment to totally reduce the risk.

He said: "The Welsh Assembly Government is recommending that there should be a review of food safety procedures in Wales in five years' time.

"The question we should be asking is, what will have changed in five years? We should act before another tragedy occurs.

"The last outbreak could have been prevented through the use of two separate meat packing machines," he mentioned.

Mr Cairns said that there was a need to change the law to give more powers to order food premises to have separate equipment and he understood that this was being looked into.

He added: "I feel that we owe it to Mason and his parents to ensure that no family in Wales ever has to go through what they have."

Cafés licence fee scheme slammed

REGIONAL Assembly Member Alun Cairns is urging Bridgend County Borough Council to scrap any fees associated with its new licensing scheme for pavement cafés.

The council is to run a pilot project in Bridgend town centre, under which all traders who place goods, tables and chairs, or signs on the pavements outside their premises must have a licence.

Although these will initially be free, the council has set out a scale of charges for the future which would involve a fee of £205 to apply and then £75 a year for the licence.

Mr Cairns said that this was the last thing that businesses needed at this time.

"We already live in one of the most highly regulated societies on earth. The council has done everything in its power to encourage traders to create a continental-style atmosphere in town centres in the borough, and now that they have responded positively, it is planning to clobber them."

He added: "If they are insistent on bringing in licences, and I am not convinced that they are necessary or desirable, at the very least they should be free or have just a minimal £10 charge to cover the cost of the paper used to print them!"

Anti-social youths targeted by the Porthcawl police

PORTHCAWL police are stepping up beach patrols along the waterfront, following anti-social incidents involving groups of youths fuelled by alcohol.

Neighbourhood Inspector Alan James said:

"There have been a number of serious incidents involving young people drinking too much alcohol, with some even needing hospital treatment.

"Police officers will be stepping up patrols of the waterfront areas – especially Rest Bay and on the Esplanade where most of the recent problems have arisen. We will be very vigilant in challenging youths and in confiscating alcohol, as well as taking any other action deemed appropriate – such as issuing anti - social behaviour referrals and Orders to Leave.

"We will also be visiting shops to remind them of their obligations under the licensing laws with regard to under age sales," he warned.

"Officers will provide a visible presence, acting as a deterrent to incidents of anti-social behaviour.

"Where appropriate, they will also seize and dispose of alcohol.

"In addition, we will establish where the alcohol was obtained from and liaise with the licensing officer to take suitable action against the retailer".

Inspector James added:

"In the summer months, we often see an increase in incidents of anti-social behaviour.

"Alcohol is a key factor, with people drinking excessively in parks and on the street.

"This reduces the quality of life for local residents and is frequently a precursor of later, more serious incidents of crime and disorder," he pointed out.

NEWS FROM BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

AT the end of June, 36 pupils from the Barry Comprehensive School travelled to La Fosca, near Gerona, on the Costa Brava, to take part in a water sports holiday organised by PGL travel.

While in Spain, the boys, aged 12-14, took part in various activities, including catamaran sailing, wind surfing, snorkelling and Taz sailing, in addition to high-speed activities such as the ocean rider!

The party also enjoyed a day out at Water World in Lloret de Mar, which has an abundance of adrenaline-rush water slides!

All of the pupils gave every activity maximum effort and the PGL instructors were thoroughly impressed with the standard demonstrated by the group, especially in sailing activities, where numerous pupils showed tremendous potential.

When not taking part in the organised activities, the boys spent many hours in the impressive 50-metre campsite pool.

Throughout the week, the group had the opportunity to mix with other schools from Plymouth and Glasgow, and the pupils enjoyed and benefited from the experience.

Party leader Mr Manley said: "All of the boys were a credit to the school both in the way they conducted themselves and the effort they put into all of the activities.

"It is a gruelling week and all of the lads kept themselves working hard and earned the respect of the PGL instruction team."

Planning has already started for next year's trip, which will hopefully see a return to La Fosca.

Any parent/guardian who would like more information can contact Mr D Manley or Mr M Ingle at the school.

Ready to take to the sea.

On the beach at La Fosca.

Followers of fashion

BARRY Comprehensive School's fashion and textiles students have concluded another successful year.

The group (pictured below, left) have developed varied skills, including weaving, felt making, machine embroidery and printing, and they mastered the fashion and costume design process.

Their hard work has put them on target to achieve the high grades they deserve at A-Level. Many students go on to follow textile-related degree courses.

Nothing glum about *Les Mis*

IT certainly wasn't a miserable time for the pupils at Barry Comprehensive School at the end of term.

Their production of *Les Miserables* was an outstanding success.

Three sell-out audiences and loud cheers of approval every night confirmed that this was one of the best productions the school has put on.

After four weeks of rehearsals and a lot of time and effort getting everything ready, the opening night was amazing. Comments from the audience included: "*An excellent production.*

"I was moved to tears when Javert died".

A school spokesman added: "We are so proud of our pupils and what they have achieved.

"The talent within the school keeps growing and growing and it makes you realise what tremendous potential there is within the creative arts faculty.

"The future pupils and staff are already planning their programme of events for next year.

ABOVE: Jordan, Danielle, Mariah, James and Lara with some of their A-Level coursework creations.

The cast of Les Miserables sing 'One Day More'.

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Potter's sixth big screen outing an underwhelming experience

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

HAVING been in print since 1997 and on cinema screens since 2001, it seems *Harry Potter* has been in the collective consciousness forever.

Yet with the final book having been published two years ago, and the final (two-part) film due in 2010/2011, the world of Potter is slowly beginning to wrap up.

Before the finale, however, comes the penultimate film, *Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince*. As Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and friends begin their sixth year at Hogwarts, he discovers a book, marked mysteriously '*This book is the property of the Half-Blood Prince*'.

This kick-starts a chain of events that sees Harry tested like never before, while also learning more about Voldemort's dark past...

Six films in and the *Harry Potter* franchise shows no sign of letting up, continuing to rake in huge amounts of money while pretty much satisfying the hardcore followers.

They've also become progressively darker as the series has worn on, making them more substantial than mere kiddie-fodder, and while *The Half-Blood Prince* continues this trend, ultimately it feels like one of the most underwhelming of the series.

With David Yates back in the director's chair (and indeed remaining there, having agreed to close out the franchise with *The Deathly Hallows*) the film certainly doesn't hold back on its visuals.

Yates makes the film highly stylised with a wondrous visual sense.

The set designs are absolutely magnificent, and Yates makes the most of them, the gothic sensibility on show looking superb on screen.

Yates does an equally fine job with the more epic scenes, the reintroduced Quidditch contests having a sense of spectacle about them, while the few set-pieces are delivered with a sure hand by the British director.

The cast do their bit as well, the younger members certainly improving with age.

There are a few moments where it feels like a poorly-performed school production, but by and large the performances are well measured and tuned.

As Harry, Daniel Radcliffe is sometimes prone to acting stiffness, but here he is more than competent, perhaps benefiting from a script that doesn't require too much from him.

Similarly, both Emma Watson and Rupert Grint make great strides as performers, the former nailing the uptight know-it-all Hermione perfectly, but with a charm that never makes her unlikeable or unbearable.

Meanwhile Grint shows some good comedic skills as the clownish Ron, with all three sharing the realistic chemistry that comes from having spent nearly a decade in the roles together.

The adult portion of the cast do just as well, Michael Gambon having a lot to do as Dumbledore and doing it well, while Alan Rickman continues to be the one of the finest elements of the series with another wonderful turn as the suspicious and sly Snape.

However, it's the raft of background turns, from the likes of Jessie Cave as Lavender Brown, Evanna Lynch as Luna Lovegood and the many others, that give the film its depth of quality. When you can restrict Timothy Spall to around five seconds of screen time, just because you can, it says much for the cast's abilities.

Despite the best efforts of cast and director, it's the old problem of adapting from page to screen that causes *The Half-Blood Prince* the biggest problems.

The script itself does a decent job of transplanting some (very moderate) teenage angst on the screen, while the characters' libidos are seemingly exercised as much as, if not more than, their magic spells, as the first pangs of love find their way into the Potter universe.

Yet the end product can't help but feel a touch undercooked and desperate to cram in as much as they can into the film's two-and-a-half hours, without creating a cohesive story.

Screenwriter Steve Kloves is more than comfortable with this universe, this being his fifth *Potter* outing, yet it also feels like his weakest.

Plot points come and go, characters are brushed under the carpet or neglected (Draco Malfoy in particular suffering from having a superb subplot that is poorly executed) and the film dissipates into a mood of anti-climax.

The fact that the reveal of the titular prince, followed by his shocking action, is executed so ham-fistedly sums up the real problem with the film. Unless you are completely au-fait with the world of Potter, *The Half-Blood Prince* is a film that seems merely to function as the set-up to the final films. As a film on its own, while entertaining, it doesn't quite cut the mustard.

VERDICT – Not the worst, but certainly not the best of the franchise, *Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince* is a pleasing, yet underwhelming experience.

Both the cast and director, David Yates, do their best, but with a screenplay that muddles and lacks cohesion, they can't quite overcome its shortfalls. *ENJOYABLE.*

Unique steam loco set to blow through!

***TORNADO*, the first mainline steam locomotive to be built in Britain for almost 50 years, is passing through Pontyclun and Bridgend next Saturday, with the Towy Tornado express from Southampton to Carmarthen.**

The £3 million steam train and (below) rail enthusiast Mike Wilcock gets to ride alongside the driver.

The new £3m Peppercorn class A1 pacific steam locomotive was built almost 20 years ago by the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, a registered charity, initially at Tyseley Works in Birmingham and subsequently at Darlington.

She recently featured on the BBC TV programme *Top Gear*, where Jeremy Clarkson rode in the cab from Kings Cross to Edinburgh – while racing his colleagues, who drove north on a motorbike and sports car.

The car won the race, due to the train having to stop many times for water.

On her trip into Wales she may stop at Port Talbot for water and also for coal and water again at Carmarthen.

The train is expected to pass through Pontyclun and then Bridgend between 10.30am and 11am. On the return journey, it should be between 6.30pm and 7pm.

One of our local enthusiasts, Mike Wilcock from Llanblethian, took the opportunity to ride on the footplate from Minehead and record the event on video before its return to the mainline. He will be showing the video to societies in the coming months.

Readers are reminded to stand well clear when the express passes through local stations at speed. Recently, 70013 Oliver Cromwell was delayed up to an hour due to photographers being too near the track in west Wales and the police had to be called.

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Out and About with The GEM

BARRY CAMERA CLUB'S NEW PHOTO EXHIBITION

An example of some of the club's work on show.

BARRY Camera Club is once again holding its annual exhibition of photographic prints and digital images.

The venue has changed from previous years, however, as this year it's being held at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry (at the top of High Street).

The exhibition is open from Monday, July 27, to Saturday, August 1, from 10am-7pm each day. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Amnesty for overdue books!

VALE library borrowers are being offered an amnesty – with the chance to bring back long overdue books – without charge!

The amnesty is in place until July 31, before planned changes mean there will be increased charges in some areas.

Latest Ty Hafan lucky lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 575.

● ***£2000:*** *600469.* ● ***£500:*** *114717.* ● ***£100:*** *771467.* ● ***£50:*** *865848.* ● ***£10:*** *787071, 835884, 826433, 807303, 661559, 278755, 191222, 743738, 747935, 156345, 420905, 253648, 412562, 722543, 636566, 534187, 483759, 692755, 885106, 894421.* . ● ***£5:*** *506682, 307753, 546123, 858705, 539314, 725125, 196060, 692997, 657508, 285475, 586446, 664876, 767192, 875458, 404342, 531075, 714036, 501713, 812056, 277149, 265039, 156722, 803951, 601752, 262250, 301367, 137836, 548105, 379598, 194961.*

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Let us entertain you!

PHOTOGRAPH by JOE HOWE

THE Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) begin a three-night run of the classic musical, *Gypsy*, at the Grand Pavilion Porthcawl, tonight (July 23-25).

The BYT has established an enviable reputation for the quality of its productions, and talented performers such as Charlotte Bruton, Josh Lovell, Mel Thomas and Natasja Bryant (above) will be bringing the musical story of Gypsy Rose Lee to life.

Telephone the box office (01656 815995) for details.

Taking guard for Ty Hafan

ON Sunday, July 26, the Dinas Powys Cricket Club will be playing an inter-club match to fundraise for Ty Hafan.

Weather permitting, there will be a bouncy castle, candy floss stall, barbecue and a raffle.

The holder of a winning ticket could secure a voucher for four people to any Newport-Gwent Dragons Home Magners League match (excluding Welsh opposition); a voucher for two people to any Cardiff Blues home match (at the new stadium); a family ticket for four people to a Glamorgan home Pro40 cricket match; and one of two free boiler services by central heating engineer Ian Coughtrey – as well as many other prizes.

The day starts at 1pm, with a junior match preceding the main event at 2pm, when a Steve Bussell side takes on a Gareth Marks XI.

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Madeleine Moon MP

Dear Resident,

During the last few months my focus has been on building links between my work in the House of Commons and the Bridgend constituency.

I hope this Parliamentary update will give you a flavour of some of the work I have been doing. From supporting the business community to tackling climate change to working with the armed forces, life is always busy and full of challenges.

If you have any issues you wish to raise please get in touch, my contact details are at the bottom of the page.

Yours,

Madeleine Moon

Madeleine Moon MP

Visits to Westminster

A number of staff and pupils from local schools have visited Westminster recently. Pen y Bont Primary school toured the Lords and Commons and met with our education unit to learn about how Parliament works. Head Teacher Mr Britten said, 'The children had a fantastic time and haven't stopped talking about the Houses of Parliament.' During their visit the children discussed the work of an MP and suggested an 'anti-smoking Bill' and a 'no homework Bill' for inclusion in the Queen's Speech.

Pupils from Pen y Bont School visit Westminster

Staff and pupils from Coety Primary made their annual visit to Parliament accompanied by Corneli Primary; an excellent example of two schools working together on a joint visit. I was in Bridgend when students from Bryntirion Primary visited but enjoyed a wonderful discussion at a school assembly with the pupils about how Parliament works.

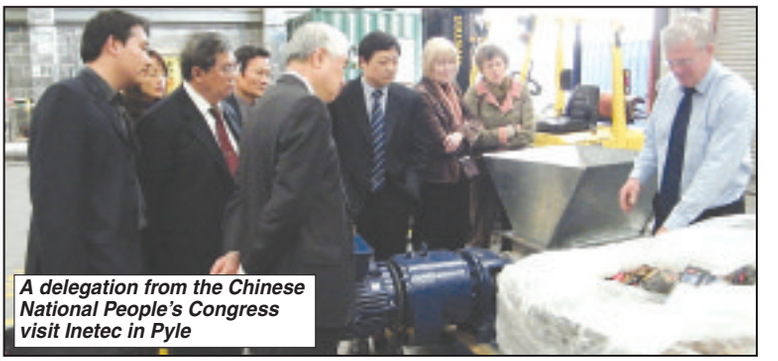
Acapella group Lace, four young women who had just graduated from Porthcawl comprehensive school, also visited in June. This was a thank you to the group for singing at my international women's day event.

Bridgend's Inner Wheel Club visited in June while members of St Theodore's Church in Kenfig Hill visited in July.

LEFT: Acapella Group Lace Visit Westminster

BELOW: Members of St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill

Promoting Local Businesses



A delegation from the Chinese National People's Congress visit Inetec in Pyle

Ensuring that the local business community is able to demonstrate its innovation and voice its concerns to government has always been a priority for me. Over the past few years local businesses have met a number of government ministers and this year for the first time a visiting delegation from China met with a local company.

Trade Minister Visit

In April UK Trade Minister, Gareth Thomas MP, attended my business seminar in Bridgend. Local businesses had a chance to discuss a range of issues including accessing credit insurance and developing overseas trade opportunities.

Madeleine with Trade Minister, Gareth Thomas MP

Chinese Delegation Visit

A delegation from the Chinese National People's Congress, led by the former Chinese Ambassador to the UK, came to Bridgend, where they made their only visit to a Welsh company. The delegation was focused on bilateral collaboration in sustainable technologies and visited Inetec on Pyle Industrial Estate. They then went on to visit Kenfig National Nature Reserve.

Chief Executive of Inetec, Mr Phil Nicholas, gave the delegation a presentation and tour of their innovative environmental technology facilities, demonstrating the company's process for transforming food and packaging waste into renewable energy. Here in Bridgend we were able to showcase a company leading the field in new technology and innovation.

CBI Wales

CBI Cymru has over the last few years supported many of my meetings between local businesses and government ministers. At Westminster I have hosted discussion meetings with the CBI and Welsh MP's, focussed on the impact of new legislation on the Welsh business community.

Jehu Project Services

Marc Jehu, Managing Director, of Jehu Project Services in Bridgend recently won the 'Building Contractor of the Year' award at the People in Property Awards Wales 2008.

Marc invited me to the company's new offices to meet the team. It was clear to see how this family run business was able to win this prestigious award with the help of such a dedicated workforce. Another example of the high quality business based locally.

BELOW: Congratulating Jehu Project Services on winning Building Contractor of the Year

More Fairtrade for Bridgend

Both Bridgend and Porthcawl have already achieved Fairtrade town status thanks to the many local people who support Fairtrade whenever they can. By buying food, gifts and now cosmetics from developing countries we will help grow their economies and reduce poverty. The Fairtrade range of goods is expanding and cosmetics and toiletries are now available in shops.

There are 57 products with Fairtrade certified ingredients, including lip balms, face masks, body butters and shower gels. Shops like Boots, Sussed and Co-op will stock the products. We know that our shopping habits can make a real difference. By buying these quality goods will also be supporting the world's poorest people.

RIGHT: Madeleine discusses Fairtrade cosmetics with Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State for International Development

Contact me: **Write to: 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend, CF31 3AA • Call: 01656 750002 • Email: moonm@parliament.uk**

Member of Parliament for Bridgend - Parliamentary Update

Bridgend Tackling Climate Change

LEFT: ***Madeleine and Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, campaign for an ambitious agreement on climate change at the UN Copenhagen Conference***

An issue of concern to everyone across the Bridgend constituency is climate change.

My office has received hundreds of letters on this issue and Bridgend constituents have helped to lobby government for tough climate change targets and the introduction of the Marine Bill which is expected to be passed this year.

Britain is leading the way in tackling climate change. The Department for Energy and Climate Change uses the latest cutting edge science and methodology to plan and prepare for changes to our climate.

Climate change is happening now. We are all seeing hotter drier summers and warmer wetter winters, coupled with increased frequency of extreme weather such as heat waves, dry spells, heavy rain and flooding.

The Government has launched a Five Point Climate Change Action Plan to help communities tackle the challenges of climate change. Here in Bridgend we are already successfully;

Tackling immediate risks- with measures such as increased flood protection, as well as coastal erosion management and health contingency plans.

Changing the way we build our houses and infrastructure.

Supporting a global deal at the Copenhagen Conference in December which will seek to limit temperature increase to less than two degrees to avoid the most dangerous effects of climate change

Creating a low carbon environment by supporting energy efficiency and clean energy technologies such as renewables, nuclear and carbon capture and storage.

Taking advantage of financial help for home insulation and energy efficiency.

Working together we are making a difference, creating new green jobs, tackling energy security and showing the way for a modern, progressive Wales.

Bridgend Schools go Green

Congratulating Maes Yr Haul Primary on their new Eco-School status

Maes Yr Haul Primary School on Broadlands has become the 28th school in the county borough of Bridgend to receive a prestigious Eco-School Green Flag for the environmentally friendly way in which the school is run. The staff and pupils held an excellent 'green' themed assembly led by teacher, Ms Williams and supported by the Eco Committee led by Ms Rhian Williams-Jones. Many parents braved the rain to attend the assembly where we discussed climate change and the small things everyone can do to make a difference. The school is now raising money to buy a much needed flagpole.

Defence Diary

The Defence Select Committee scrutinises the expenditure, administration and policy of the Ministry of Defence. Back bench MPs serve on only one select committee because the volume of papers to read, meetings to attend and inquires pursued into the operation of the department are very time consuming.

Having joined the Defence Select Committee in January with no military background the best way for me to get an insight into the work of the armed forces was to join the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. The scheme involves visits, exercises and training with a branch of the military – I joined the RAF.

Observing Chinook Helicopters at RAF Odiham

Observing RAF Tornado jets

The strength of the scheme is that it allows MPs to hear the views of servicemen and women directly and candidly – rather than through senior officers, civil servants or Ministers.

The pace has been hectic. While London was cut off by snow: I spent four days in class rooms at the Defence Academy at Shrivenham examining joint strategic training for officers in the Army, Navy, Marines and RAF. Time at RAF Cranwell focused on officer and aircrew recruitment, selection and flying training.

At Halton, Cosford, Shawbury and Valley RAF stations there was a chance to observe the specialist training for a wide variety of skills and responsibilities for new recruits. The RAF was the subject of a recent TV programme showing their role in Afghanistan and during the visit to RAF Honington we saw their tough fitness and training regime. There was a chance to see Fast Jets in action at Coningsby while air transport on the impressive Hercules aircraft was demonstrated at Lyneham.

These visits have been especially helpful for the Defence committee inquires into deployment and equipment. A current inquiry into the availably and use of helicopters has been assisted by visits to Middle Wallop, Odiham and RNAS Yeovilton.

Armed Forces Day celebrations were held in Bridgend on 27th June with veterans, cadet forces, serving military and their families taking part. It was wonderful for the community to have a chance to show their support, gratitude and recognition to our service personnel from all generations.

BELOW: ***Meeting Mr Emery who was held as a Prisoner of War in Japan***

Promoted by R Hurst on behalf of Madeleine Moon MP, 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend, CF31 3AA. This report was paid for out of the House of Commons Communications Allowance for Madeleine Moon MP.

Contact me: **Write to: 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend, CF31 3AA • Call: 01656 750002 • Email: moonm@parliament.uk**

Rhoose Tae Kwon Do take five medals at English championships

ABOVE:
The Rhoose medal winners who did well in the English Championships.

ON Sunday, July 5, students from Rhoose Tae Kwon Do Club travelled to Kettering Sports village to take part in the English Tae Kwon Do Championships.

The competition was a big event with entries from England Wales and Scotland competing in this national event!

Rhoose Tae Kwon Do Club had been training hard in preparation for the tournament and fought to their full potential on the day. The team took five medals back to Wales!

Jay Munn started the medal rush by winning in the lightweight Yellow belt Boys division. Jay, a keen competitor and recent medallist at the Welsh Open, out-fought everyone in his division.

Stuart Padmore fought next in the men's welterweight division, winning his first gold medal.

Adam Owens, who fought in the lightweight Blue belt boys division, secured the bronze medal. Adam, who was returning after a break from competition, showed his experience, narrowly missing out on a place in the final.

Next up was Liam Padmore. Liam is a star at the competitions now and is slowly making a name for himself.

He fought in the boys peewee division. Still at the tender age of eight, he faced off against children up to 11 years old. He won five fights, only to lose in the final, taking the silver medal.

Adam Munn was the last one on the mat. Adam fought a close fight in the final, just losing a few points at the end to take the silver medal!

TUCKER'S 'WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION' SEES BARRY WANDERERS HOME

BARRY WANDERERS v PONTNEWYNYDD (SECOND XI LEAGUE FIXTURE)

THE Wanderers travelled to Pontnewynydd in good spirits, having marched to the top of the table with recent wins over Bridgend and Newport.

Skipper Barnes, sporting a new haircut, went out to the middle and won an important toss, as the forecast was for rain later in the afternoon.

After putting Pontnewynydd in to bat Barnes was hoping for quick wickets and the opening salvo of Evan Davies, playing his first league two game of the season, and veteran Dave Morgan didn't disappoint.

A combination of good bowling, loose shots and good catching (the Wanderers didn't drop a catch all afternoon) meant that the opening bowlers took seven wickets between them, which left Pontnewynydd reeling at 32-7 and firmly on the back foot.

In such a strong position, the Wanderers change bowlers of Ashton and Tucker kept the pressure on, and only R Roberts showed any resistance with a Boycottesque innings of two not out off 58 balls.

However, Ashton deceived Heward into a rash shot playing on, and then had Bond smartly stumped by Barnes for a duck to leave the hosts teetering on the brink at 43-9, which soon turned into 47 all out as Tucker bowled a great inswinger to add to his two catches.

Pontnewynydd only managed to bat for 27 of their 45 overs, and this led to the Wanderers being able to go for the win before mother nature intervened.

With news coming in from Hayes Point and the Swalec stadium that rain had stopped play in both games, it was essential that the Wanderers gained momentum from the off and with Barnes and Thomas opening the batting, they had the in form duo for the job.

Skipper Barnes ensured that it was a straight switch around with the rain expected and it was a matter of whether the Wanderers could score the runs before the heavens opened.

Barnes attacked from the off with the left handed Thomas a little more cautious on a very slow pitch. The home side, as expected had men around the bat and it was the experienced Bradley who had Barnes bowled for eight, having yorked himself.

Tim Sanders, coming in at number three for his first game of the season, looked settled but with runs coming at 2.7 an over off the first 10 overs, it was time to crack on as skipper Barnes gave the signal to get on with it as the dark clouds loomed over the mountains.

Almost immediately, Thomas tried a big heave and was caught and bowled.

This led to a promotion up the order for Rob Tucker and in he strolled with his 3lb-4oz monster bat and proceeded to use his 'weapon of mass destruction'.

The weather by now was dark and gloomy and it was touch and go for the Wanderers (a scene similar to Karachi some years ago when England famously beat Pakistan in darkness).

However, Tucker was unfazed and proceeded to hit Heward for two sixes and a four through mid wicket to win the game as the players rushed off the field for cover as the heavens opened.

Another over and it could well have been abandoned, so great credit must go to Tucker for his big hitting and overall contribution, both on and off the pitch, which has been instrumental in the Wanderers success this year.

BWCC won by eight wickets and took 25 points

The Dock View Auto Centre man-of-the-match was Rob Tucker.

MIDWEEK LEAGUE

ON a sweltering evening, the Wanderers' took on local rivals Dinas Powys. Winning the toss, the Wanderers' elected to bat.

The in-form partnership of Ed Sherriff and Paul George got the innings off to a cracking start with some fine boundary hitting and some excellent running between the wickets.

Soon after the 50 partnership, George departed for 22, bringing Stu Jones to the crease to face his current Saturday team mates.

Sherriff continued to pile pressure on the Dinas attack before falling to a superb one-handed catch for 44.

This started a middle order collapse with the Wanderers, falling from 72-2 to 110-9, thanks mainly to some fine bowling by Ali and Zaman.

However, James Griffiths came to the crease and promptly dispatched a lovely six, and with Stu Jones playing intelligently at the other end, the Wanderers' innings gained some much-needed late momentum, closing all out for 140.

The Dinas innings got off to a slow start thanks to some excellent tight bowling from the Wanderers' opening bowlers.

Andy Fenton in particular gave nothing away.

His excellent bowling was rewarded with an early wicket thanks to a brilliant diving catch by stand-in wicket keeper Paul George.

As Fenton and Beckett picked up a couple of wickets apiece, only Ali provided some resistance.

This was, however, broken with the introduction of 'spin-king' Griffiths.

As Cole picked up the wicket of Coughtrey, the contest was effectively over, with Dylan Williams picking up the final wicket – leaving Dinas all out for 73.

An excellent effort from the Wanderers' bowlers.

The Sully Inn man of the match was Andy Fenton for an excellent 2-15.

AF

VALE OF GLAMORGAN MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE REPORT

Internationals win Barry derby game in quality evening match

WITH the small matter of an historic Ashes Test Match taking place last week, some cricket was played and Barry Internationals took the opportunity to close the gap on League leaders Lisvane with a 42-run win against Barry Athletic.

Batting first, Internationals were all out for 116, Masqood top scoring with 21 and Nathan Baker taking 4-28. In reply Athletic could only muster 74. Saleh, who normally shines with the bat returned 3-20.

Riz Hanif made a welcome return to collect two wickets, while Sarj Patel excelled behind the stumps and accounted for four victims.

Previously, the Athletic, under the guidance of Ian Gadd, who became the first player in the league's history to transfer between teams mid-season, led his new club to a narrow 13-run win against his old club Barry West End.

Tommy Miller and Owain Jones opened the bowing for West End, keeping the runs under some control. Al Mansfield came on and claimed the first two wickets of Lee Morgan (with his first ball) and then Andy Buckland for a duck.

Nye Lane took a wicket and 'Harry' Holmes (probably the oldest player in the league) took 3-16, but the Athletic rescued a poor score thanks to some astonishing hitting from Nathan Baker, who plundered 30 off the final over - a likely league record.

After losing Mark Williams without scoring, West End's reply was mainly kept alive by Owain Jones and Ralph Ewington. However, they eventually finished up 17 runs short at the end .

West End then entertained Fontygary and an enjoyable encounter saw the Rhoose-based team win by 38 runs.

With one-man short, West End took to the field to bowl. N Jones and Herbie Miller opened the batting and were in no mood to hang around, racing to 17 off the first two overs before Tommy Miller (no relation) struck to claim the first of his two wickets.

This however, brought Ian Nicholson to the wicket, and he continued to maintain the scoring rate. Some tight bowling limited the damage and Al Mansfield chipped in with a wicket before Nye Lane removed Nicholson for 44 .

The scoring rate was reduced following this, with Lane subsequently taking a further two wickets, well supported by Jason Thomas as Fontygary could only realise a further 40 runs in their last eight overs, totalling 127-8.

Despite many of the team being past the first flush of youth, the West End players performed admirably, both bowling and fielding to restrict their powerful opponents' final score.

With the weakest side that West End have put out this season thus far, the batting reply began slowly and watchfully, also due to some tight bowling from John Wooden. Two wickets fell to Liam Bruce at first change in the fourth over with the score on 13.

This however, brought acting captain and wicketkeeper Mark Williams to the wicket. After a cautious start, he began to chase down the total set for victory. With the fall of his wicket for 26 (bowled by Nicholson), the run chase was effectively over as West End's reply fell well short, petering out at 89-7.

On a sweltering evening on the Common, the Wanderers' took on local rivals Dinas Powys. Winning the toss, the Wanderers' elected to bat.

Ed Sherriff and Paul George got the innings off to a fine start, finding the boundary with ease, and adding to the total with excellent running between the wickets.

Soon after the 50 partnership, George was out for 22, bringing Stu Jones to the crease.

Sherriff continued to pile on the pressure but eventually fell to a fine catch for 44.

Wickets suddenly started tumbling, and in short order the situation changed,with the Wanderers falling from 72-2 to 110-9, thanks mainly to some controlled bowling by Ali and Zaman.

However, James Griffiths came to the crease and straight away hit a powerful six. Stu Jones playing sensibly at the other end, and the innings gained some much needed late momentum, finishing all out for 144.

The Dinas innings got bogged down at the start, thanks to some excellent tight bowling from the opening bowlers, Andy Fenton in particular.

His bowling was rewarded with an early wicket, thanks to an excellent diving catch by stand-in wicket keeper Paul George.

As Fenton and Beckett picked up a couple of wickets apiece, only Ali provided some resistance.

This was, however, broken with the introduction of 'spin-king' Griffiths. As Cole picked up the wicket of Coughtrey, the contest was effectively over, with Dylan Williams picking up the final wicket, leaving Dinas all out for 73.

Dinas' woes continued when Creigiau visited. Martin Powell in typically barnstorming fashion, helped himself to 73 from a total of 162-6. Dinas batted a lot better than of late and scored 130-8 in reply, Andy Smith top-scoring with 43 and Dewi Williams returning 2-16.

Barry Athletic bowlers in 'fine all-round display'

BARRY Athletic's PG1 team produced their best performance so far this season with an emphatic win against Aberdare Harlequins at Barry Island on Saturday.

The Athletic won on all four rinks with an impressive 88 shots to 54 total, collecting a maximum 14 points to add to the 10 picked up against Whitchurch the previous Saturday.

Top rink honours went to Robert Horgan skipping his line-up to a convincing 27-8 victory, with newly promoted Bill Summerell at lead, Jack Beanland and young Kristian Harris adding their support in a fine all-round display.

Glyn Thomas came in with a 25-15 score in a rink that featured teenage lead Steve McKernan, JR Evans and Club Captain DK Williams.

There were narrow wins for Chris Blake and Dean Rees, ensuring maximum points for the Island team.

There was no joy for the PG2 side at Cardiff Athletic. Due to withdrawals, captain Eric Booker was forced to use players out of position and relied on 'retired' members making an unexpected comeback!

The Barry team included a number of octogenerarians!

It was always going to be an uphill task and, as expected, Cardiff Athletic cruised to an easy win and 12 points.

A gritty display from Graham Thomas' rink saved a whitewash with his squad of Bill Webber, the indefatigable Alf Pidduck and Barrie Turner notching a 24-10 win.

Scores: Barry Athletic v Harlequins (PG1) – S McKernan, JR Evans, DK Williams, G Thomas 25, D Lewis, P Keating, A Siter, D Giles 15; G Gane, M Vaughan, G Whittaker, D Rees 19, D Keating, R Giblin, C Keating, J Mae 15; D Snelling, M Eskins, J Donovan, C Blake 17, S Storey, J Cahill, J Lewis, M Jones 16; W Summerell, J Beanland, K Harris, R Horgan 27, R Owen, P Begg, G Maund, C Prosser 8.

Barry Athletic v Cardiff Athletic (PG2): R Gillham, Glaves, D Coombs, I Stevenson 11, A Payne, D Hayes, N Roach, J Hawkey 23; C Rossiter, J Coll, E Eskins, G Humphreys 7, A Sedgmore, D Turnbull, G Hammond, A Baldwin 32; J McPherson, J Morton, A Thomas, E Booker 13, J Cornish, K Thorne, G Collins, T Gardner 23; W Webber, A Pidduck, B Turner, G Thomas 24, D Lewis, E Davies, B Carter, P Cross 10.

EMAIL US!

● WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Pedestrianisation: 'Think again' call is rejected by council

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) has ruled out a request to review the pedestrianisation of Bridgend town centre.

Coun David Unwin put in a written question to the cabinet, asking them to look again at the night-time ban on traffic, with a view to letting traffic into the town centre from 6pm-11pm.

He asked for the situation to be reviewed because the shopmobility scheme does not operate at night and café and restaurant owners in the town centre are complaining that elderly and disabled customers, who are unable to walk far, cannot patronise their businesses.

However, deputy council leader Coun David Sage, said that the council's decision to stop traffic, including taxis and disabled drivers, from entering the pedestrianised zone, was taken on safety grounds and the same concerns remain today.

Coun Sage referred to a public inquiry held in 2001 by a Welsh Office inspector and police, who agreed that it would be unsafe to allow any traffic into the town centre, even at night.

He said that the council has no control over who is allowed to enter the pedestrianised zone via the automatic bollards.

"Any exceptions to the rules on entry into the pedestrian zone are outside the council's control, and together with enforcement are entirely a matter for South Wales Police."

He added: "Any exception to the entry rules are also entirely at the discretion of the police."

Coun Sage claimed that any change to the existing arrangement would "severely compromise safety in an area that had a very poor safety record before pedestrianisation; and further worsen the opportunities for Bridgend's own recovery, as the global economy emerges from recession."

Coun Unwin said he was not happy with the response:

"I made the request for a review on behalf of traders who claim that their businesses are severely affected by the ban on traffic at night.

"The council is talking about a public inquiry held in 2001 – but that was before some of the pedestrianisation had taken place.

"It was several years before access into town from Queen Street was barred. Until then, traffic could enter at any time and go along Dunraven Place, up Market Street and exit via Quarella Road.

"That enabled people to be dropped off by taxi near the shops, restaurants, banks and other premises they wish to visit.

"However, that avenue was finally blocked off in about 2005.

"I feel that enough time has elapsed for a review to take place.

"Things change, the world moves on. It's no good saying that almost a decade ago a public inquiry was held.

"We need to have a proper review of how the scheme of pedestrianisation has worked.

"It's always possible to improve things."

Coun Unwin will liaise with the Chamber of Trade to see what further action they wish to take.

Police getting blackberries!

POLICE officers in the new Bridgend-Vale division are being issued with blackberries – and we don't mean the fruit!

Acting Supt Simon Belcher said that the e-mail/computer would be a boon for front line officers, who could write a report on the spot and send it off, freeing them up to carry on with policing duties.

They were being brought in to stop officers from being tied up doing paperwork for hours at a time.

Bridgend Town Council also heard that the new merged divisional headquarters will be at Bridgend, with Barry as a sub-divisional base.

Supt Belcher said that although the merger was not being finalised until September, many things were already in place. He commented that there were no cuts in front line officers, but the savings would be made in back office staffing.

He said that there were no plans to move people around, and officers would generally remain within their usual areas.

Asked about the health of divisional commander, Chief Supt Dave Dando, Supt Belcher reported that he was much better after his recent accident and had come out of hospital.

"He's desperate to come back to work and has been to the station a couple of times," he added.

Bridgend Town Council conveyed their good wishes to him via Supt Belcher.

Members get glimpse of life in Patagonia

LALESTON WI NEWS

THE last meeting before the summer break was held on July 2, and although there is no meeting in August, the president reminded members of various events taking place during the break

At last, after two 'washouts', a few members started out at 7am on July 5 to set up tables at the car boot sale in The Rest, Porthcawl.

The newly-formed luncheon club met on July 14 at the Oystercatcher, and will meet again on August 11 at the same venue.

Laleston Church fete was held on July18 and the WI were present with their usual stall.

Visits to the theatre will be undertaken – firstly to see *Gypsy* at the Pavilion, and then *Sound of Music* at the Millennium Centre on August 6.

Marilyn Davies, president, then introduced the evening`s guest, Rev Tremthmor, for a return visit. On this occasion, her subject was a talk and slides on Patagonia, covering a visit she paid to the area in January.

She was most enthusiastic about her trip, which was obvious from her slides of penguins, albatross, and sea lions – and also gorgeous views.

A vote of thanks was extended by Marlene Davies.

The next meeting will be on September 4 (a harvest auction) at Laleston Gardening Club.

JR

How a school prom sent a Porthcawl mother on an emotional roller-coaster

by CAROLINE SARLL

For the average bloke, the end of the school year means just that, the end of the school year...

For mothers, though, it is different. Life is studded with milestones and each one has an impact.

For Caroline Sarll, who lives in Porthcawl, this end of school year saw her younger daughter leave primary school.

Just another milestone?

It turned out to be a little more than that...

ABOVE: Tabitha Ellams, Hannah Spencer, Felicity Williamson-Sarll, Sophie Harris, and Sophie Protheroe get ready for the school prom.

T. S. Eliot got it so wrong when he wrote that "*April is the cruellest month*".

Every year, for the last 10 years, July has definitely sported the sadness sobriquet in our house. As an inveterate 'shoppie' (seriously hormonal, over-emotional parent), I have battled every summer, since my now 13-year-old daughter started nursery, with the crippling process of saying goodbye to another year of both girls' lives.

Morbidly poetic, I have delivered ditties of deserved thanks (but also of desperate woe) to bemused teachers – and stuck pieces of my daughters' dresses and school shirts into scrap books that only I seem to bother with, and which are testament to the perhaps misplaced importance I bestow on material reminders of my girls' passing years.

How right was W.H. Auden, a contemporary of Eliot's, when he said "childhood moves like a sigh". How painfully short for us parents, this period is.

This past week, the pain has been even more intense than usual. After eight years in the same primary school, Dortie No.2, our "baby", has just left and it has re-activated all the feelings of loss I experienced two years ago, when my first-born cut the same ties.

Then, despite confronting its imminence, I still found myself permanently choked during the last week of term, and adopted my usual approach of organising all sorts of valedictory events, which I thought would ease the process.

As well as attending the end-of-year show (and undoubtedly winning the MBA award for 'Most Blubbering Adult'), I arranged a get-together for the small group of mums and children who had stuck together since the nursery years – and gave a photograph to each, of the children on their very first school day.

I wept. They wept. We all wept.

However, as with all rites of passage, we did, I think, feel marginally better afterwards.

Ceremonies involving our offspring, whilst invariably tear-soddentissues affairs, on reflection, ultimately evolve into a sealing Elastoplast for the emotions, whether in a grand hall, or, in our case, the local ice-cream 'caff'.

My own last day in primary (the same school, which makes the wrench now even worse), was not marked in this way and I regret this lack of closure even now.

This year, as the DLD (Dreaded Last Day) approached, there has already been a much grander farewell – and one that has given rise to a whole new set of emotions.

For the last two months, the Williamson-Sarll household has talked of very little other than frocks and frou-frou, interspersed with some really serious high (tea) level debates on the ethics of...hmmm – primary school proms.

On the dress front, having knocked antedeluvian Mum's firm, flowery favourite into touch ("No offence, Mum, but it's...well...a bit...YOUNG". OMG.

That from my then TEN-year-old!), we eventually opted for a tasteful, lilac number from H&M, which, nevertheless did not come in a size 6, and had to be altered to conceal the lack of traditional prom-age(17 -18) embonpoint.

Then came the quest for matching shoes (just how many shades of lilac ARE there?), which left me with the unenviable task of dyeing the beige shoe-bow lilac, whilst not getting any on the shoe itself.

Try doing that at gone midnight, the night before said prom, whilst suffering from a severe bout of middle-aged myopia and pre-menopausal dyspraxia.

Think of an elephant trying to thread a needle, and you get the picture. Thank Heavens for dim lighting in the prom hall.

Outfit complete (Dad rushed out to buy coordinating beige bag hours before the event; mental note: buy him extra bottle of cider), I then launched into preparations for the pre-prom 'mocktail' do, which I'd arranged to get our primped and prettified 10 and 11-year-old girls in the party mood.

I was, you see, despite niggling disapproval, horribly swept up in all the drama.

After sipping 'Summertime Sodas' and 'Jungle Juices', all eight girls tumbled into their silver limo and were whisked off for two hours of crisps and Twix munching, bobbing coyly around their handbags and agonising over the invidious procedure of electing a Prom King and Queen.

Felicity, devoid of make-up, with hair loose and flat (homespun) shoes, looked like an 11-year-old girl dressed up.

She and the few other simply attired girls stood out in the sea of professional hairdos, high, strappy shoes and a slew of Strictly-style slap.

It unnerved me.

I was proud to see my beautiful daughter, bidding such a public farewell to her primary years, but it was also a precocious affair that offered a too-soon glimpse into teenagedom and the knowledge, for me, that my little girl, would soon flee – not only her next school – but also her nurturing, yet undoubtedly restricting nest.

We are all being dragged along in a powerful current we cannot stop, but no-one tells you this when your first is born.

We will hurtle into the summer break, crash into comp life and then, in a blink of an eye, there will be a 'proper' prom for both girls and school, and my role as daily nurturer will be out. Forever.

All I can do, in this past week of turmoil, is try to hide my own upset better than last time and comfort my 'baby' when she waves her last goodbye to her school, her second home (and mine) for so many years.

And, ultimately, I must also be thankful that I have two beautiful, healthy girls, who have not only passed each milestone as expected, but excelled along the way.

Get a grip, Caroline. Sigh. Deeply (it takes longer). Move on.

And take out those shares in Kleenex before both girls leave home. Perish the thought.

c.Caroline Sarll 2009

The Bridgend Bookstart marks its 10th 'birthday'

BRIDGEND Bookstart is celebrating 10 years of co-operation between Bridgend library and information service and local health visitors in 'gifting' packs of free books to parents of babies and toddlers.

Parents are given free packs in health clinics when they take their children for health checks at eight months old and 20 months old.

The scheme aims to encourage parents to share books with their babies from an early age, and the packs include tips on how to share books with small children.

Research has proven that such book sharing has a positive effect on children's language acquisition and their communication skills.

Since July 1999, more than 20,000 baby and early years packs have been given out to parents.

Bookstart in Wales is funded by Basic Skills Cymru, as part of their National Basic Skills Strategy for Wales.

To celebrate this milestone for Bridgend Bookstart, children from Caerau, Pontycymer and Sarn Nursery Schools attended a 10th anniversary party at Pyle Life Centre.

They made bear masks and party hats, listened to stories, sang songs and were treated to a puppet show.

After the party food, everyone sang Happy Birthday to the Bookstart Bear. More than 80 very tired children went home with a goody bag which included a miniature Bookstart Bear.

MARGARET GRIFFITHS (children's librarian)

St Theodore's hosts Kenfig Hill weddings

St Theodore's Church in Kenfig Hill was the venue for the wedding of Sarah Perkins and Anthony Griffiths (left and below). They were married by the Rev Richard Spencer, priest-in-charge of the Parish of Kenfig Hill, and the happy couple were serenaded by Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir sing at the wedding.

Action on litter

YOUR recent correspondent should not despair over litter but do something about it; there is an old-ish person who (until he bought a fold-up bike) used to pick up litter all the time.

Disabled aids can be bought in Lidl, occasionally for £3 or £4, and plastic bags are 2p in Filco.

If we all picked up the bottles and cigarette packets, maybe those who drop them would be shamed into stopping this horrible habit.

(***Name and address supplied***)

Wedding for Gemma and Guy!

The pictures (above and right) were taken recently at the wedding in St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill, of Gemma Guy and Tom Cullinane. Rev Richard Spencer officiated at the ceremony.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Bryntirion Junior School – **Bryntirion Junior School, Llangewydd Road, Bridgend** – flag pole to display eco schools green flag.

Mr D Howells – **22 Homfray Street, Maesteg** – single storey extension to provide shower room.

Mr M Miah – **32/34 Penybont Road, Pencoed** – change of use to restaurant (amended description).

Mr D Edwards – **land adjacent Thomas Crescent, North Cornelly, Bridgend** – residential development (outline).

Mr A Jenkins – **28 West Road, Porthcawl** – erect new dwelling in garden.

Mr S Sleep – **6 Vernon Road, Porthcawl** – loft conversion with roof extension and dormer to provide bedroom.

Mr M Snelling – **2 Buarthau, Blackmill, Bridgend** – single storey rear extension.

Mr C Lewis – **Gilead Congregational Chapel, Heol Spencer, Coity** – proposed demolition of existing external store and replacement with new store.

Mr I Mathews – **19 Priory Gardens, Bridgend** – double garage to rear garden and alter existing garage to a drive through access to proposed garage.

Mr R Bradford – **Bryn Sarn, Sarn Hill, Sarn, Bridgend** – change of use of storage/exercise room above garage to residential unit to house parent (ancillary use).

Mr R Martin – **123 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend** – demolish conservatory and erect larger conservatory (amendment to previously approved scheme).

Mr D Llewellyn – **14 Sibrwd y Dail, Penyfai, Bridgend** – first floor south side extension and front garden walls.

Barratt South Wales – **land at Maendy Farm, Bryncethin, Bridgend** – vary condition 2 of consent P/06/556/OUT to increase number of dwellings to be built.

Mr D Llewellyn – **3 Sibrwd y Dail, Penyfai, Bridgend** – boundary walls to front garden.

Mr D Llewellyn – **13 Sibrwd y Dail, Penyfai, Bridgend** – boundary walls to front garden.

Mr A Page – **8 The Whimbrels, Porthcawl** – demolition of attached garage and erection of three bedroomed detached dwelling.

Sustainable Construction Ltd – **proposed Units 25 and 26 Willowturf Court, Bryncethin, Bridgend** – a pair of semi-detached houses.

Sustainable Construction Ltd – **proposed Units 27 and 28 Willowturf Court, Bryncethin, Bridgend** – a pair of semi-detached houses (rebus of refusal 09/178).

Harmers – **former Stormy Down Airfield, Pyle** – screening and scoping opinion for new building for feedstock reception hall and use of hangar for in-vessel composting.

Mr R Jones – **23A Fron Heulog, Bridgend** – proposed single storey extension to side of dwelling.

Porthcawl Angling Association – **Pwll y Waun Lake, Porthcawl** – relax condition 2 of 07/917 to allow permanent consent for the siting of a storage container.

Mrs N Cole – **19 Pentyla, Maesteg, Bridgend** – demolish extension to front and detached garage, construct single storey extension to front.

Actseen Ltd – **Bro Ewenni Nursing Home, Ewenny Road, Bridgend** – demolition of existing and construction of a new nursing home.

Simon Tucker Surf School – **Rest Bay land adjacent The Slip and Lifeguard Station, Porthcawl** – temporary permission for five years for siting of secure unit for storage of wet suits, surf boards and key safe.

Mr MJ Evans – **6 Anglesey Way, Porthcawl** – single storey extension to rear of property.

Mrs A Matthews – **26 St Brides Road, Aberkenfig, Bridgend** – first floor extension at rear to form shower room.

Barratt South Wales – **land at Maendy Farm, Bryncethin, Bridgend** – 222 dwellings and associated works related to P/06/556/OUT – affecting footpaths 3,7 and 9 St Brides Minor.

Sinclair Garages Limited – **Sinclair Group Body Repair Centre, Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – single storey steel portal frame building for repair of accident-damaged cars and light commercial vehicles.

AVIVA 62nd WELSH SCHOOLS NATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS AT CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL SPORTS STADIUM RECORD EPIC PERFORMANCES

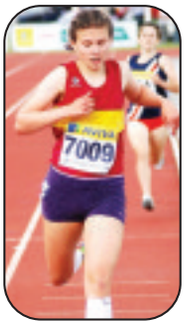
New landmark for high jumper Elinor

Report by PETER MORRIS
Photos by IAN DIXON

ELINOR LEWIS maintained her possibly unique record at the recent Aviva-sponsored, 62nd Welsh School national track and field championships.

Elinor has now competed at the fixture for four consecutive years, and has had at least a share in a pole vault best on each occasion.

Back in 2006, the then Penarth year-9 pupil set an inaugural age group best of 2.96 metres in winning the pole vault in the first year that it was held for the junior (under-15) girls.



Vicky Jackson (Barry College) winner in the senior girls 1,500 metres.

In 2007, her debut year in the middle (under-17) section, she raised the bar to a new best of 3.30 metres to again claim victory. Last year, GCSE year, was a real test of her determination and ambition.

She set a new middle best of 3.50 metres, but she was not the only girl to clear that height. Two of her rivals from north-east Wales also went clear, with that duo claiming gold and silver and Elinor having to settle for third place on countback.

All three of those competitions had been held at Penlan Arena in Brecon. This year, the Bro Morgannwg year-12 made the short journey to the recently-opened Cardiff International Sports Stadium and, despite tricky conditions and a very long competition, soared over a new best of 3.74 metres on her debut in the senior (under-20) section.

That performance not only gave her the event gold medal, and eight points in the team competition, but also a share, with middle hammer thrower Toni Wells (SE Wales), of the trophy for the outstanding field performance by a girl.

There were mixed fortunes at this event for the Vale athletes who had enjoyed medal-winning performances at the previous weekend's Welsh Schools Combined Events championships in Swansea. Senior boys' champion Curtis Mathews, who, we are happy to correct, spends much of his time training under the guidance of Barry and Vale Harriers' long serving and most experienced coach, John Hartley, at Jenner Park, had a bit of a nightmare in the long jump, finishing over a metre down on his Swansea best, and could only finish fourth in the discus.

Arran Reid (Barry Comprehensive 772) on his way to 5th place in the junior boys 200 metres.

The Barry Comprehensive sixth former did bounce back in the high jump to win with a height of 1.85 metres.

Matthew Roan (St Cyres), silver medallist in the junior section at Swansea, set a new high jump best of 1.65 metres in winning that event, but Cowbridge year-11 Oliver Trotman, the under-17 third placer, who had cleared 1.83 metres at Swansea, could only manage 1.70 metres for fifth.

On a day when Cardiff & the Vale district made the most of home advantage, and team managers, including Mrs Laura Burnett (St Richard Gwyn), worked hard to ensure that there were only a small number of events without a scoring athlete, there were three further 'Vale' victories with Vicky Jackson (Barry College) winning the senior girls' 1,500 metres, Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro Morgannwg) taking the senior 2,000 metres crown and Tom Smith (Stanwell) claiming the top spot in the junior boys' triple jump. Nineteen Vale pupils, 12 boys and seven girls, finished in the top three places to claim an individual medal.

In the team competitions, Cardiff & the Vale have been very strong in the boys' age groups for a number of years, and very weak in the girls' section. The strength at senior (under-20) and junior (under-15) boys was evident again with comfortable wins and, but for a bit of a disaster on the second change of the middle relay, that section would have provided a third trophy for the collection, but the zero points for a disqualification enabled old rivals Dyfed to snatch victory by two points.

The girls were more competitive this year, finishing in the top three in both the senior and junior sections, and that proved to be the difference.

At the end of a long day, much to the delight of athletes, parents and team managers, Cardiff & the Vale had amassed 542 points to finish ahead of Dyfed (523.5) in the quest for the Overall Points trophy, the second time in three years that they have defeated their west Wales rivals in this competition.

All the athletes who competed for Cardiff & the Vale at this fixture are due to receive their district colours medal at the track and field presentation evening, which will be held at Cardiff High School on Tuesday, September 8, starting at 7pm.

Results of Vale athletes: Senior Boys (under-20) – 100: Ht 2 (-3.5): 2 Adam Jones Stanwell 11.88; Fin (-1.2) 4 Adam Jones Stanwell 11.62; 200: (-2.1): 4 Adam Jones Stanwell 23.03; 2,000 Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight Bro Morgannwg 6:34.22; 400H: 4 Tom Williams Bro Morgannwg 1:04.9; HJ: 1 Curtis Mathews Barry 1.85; 3 Josh Hill Llantwit Major 1.75; 4 Sam Booker Llantwit Major 1.75; LJ: 4 Tom Williams Bro Morgannwg 5.78/1.4; 6 Curtis Mathews Barry 5.53/1.3; SP: 4 Matt Wilcox Cowbridge 10.46; DT: 4 Curtis Mathews Barry 31.19; HT: 4 Matt Wilcox Cowbridge 19.42; JT: 2 Josh Hill Llantwit Major 39.75; 4x100: 2 Cardiff & the Vale 44.0; 3 Cardiff & the Vale B (non scoring) 44.6.

Ayla Phillips (Llantwit), second in the senior shot and hammer.

Team: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 114.

Middle Boys (under-17) – 100: Ht 2 (-0.9): 2 Jamie Sexton St Richard Gwyn 11.53; Fin: (-1.4): 2 Jamie Sexton St Richard Gwyn 11.46; 400: Ht 2: 2 James Wiltshire St Cyres 53.17; Fin: 2 Wiltshire 50.62; 800: 5 Rhys Allin Cowbridge 2:09.03; 1,500 Sc: 4 Darren Jones Llantwit Major 5:00.80; HJ: 5 Oliver Trotman Cowbridge 1.70; PV: 7 Jake Connelly Bro Morgannwg 2.20; TJ: 3 Sam Bunkham Cowbridge 12.34; SP: 3 Ben Harding St Cyres 12.39; HT: 3 Bradley Cole St Cyres 33.69; 7 Tom Perry Bro Morgannwg 27.41; JT: 3 Scott Hewins Llantwit Major 46.38; 4x100: Cardiff & the Vale disqualified.

Team: 1 Dyfed 108; 2 Cardiff & the Vale 106; 3 South East Wales 103.

Junior Boys – 100 (-2.1): 3 Cameron Jones Stanwell 12.17; 200 (-2.4): 5 Aaron Reid Barry 24.69; 1500: 5 Matthew Edwards Barry 04:39.85; HJ: 1 Matthew Roan St Cyres 1.65; PV: 4 George Connelly Bro Morgannwg 1.90; TJ: 1 Thomas Smith Stanwell 12.12; SP: 4 Gus McPherson Cowbridge 11.54; 4x100: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 47.01.

Team: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 95; 2 Dyfed 79.

Senior Girls – 100 (1.7): 5 Heather Jarvis Cowbridge 15.81; 800: 5 Maddie Edgeworth Cowbridge 2:53.99; 1,500: 1 Victoria Jackson Barry College 4:59.22; HJ: 3 Maddie Edgeworth Cowbridge 1.25; PV: 1 Elinor Lewis Bro Morgannwg 3.74 CBP; LJ: 5 Leah Grisdale Bro Morgannwg 4.35/2.3; TJ: 4 Elinor Lewis Bro Morgannwg 9.88; SP: 2 Ayla Phillips Llantwit Major 10.06; 5 Sian Balchin Kings Monkton 9.21; DT: 4 Sian Balchin Kings Monkton 26.17; HT: 2 Ayla Phillips Llantwit Major 33.48; JT: 3 Sian Balchin Kings Monkton 28.93; 4 Ayla Phillips Llantwit Major 22.22; 4x100: 4 Cardiff & the Vale 54.42.

Team: 1 Dyfed 98; 2 Cardiff & the Vale 90.

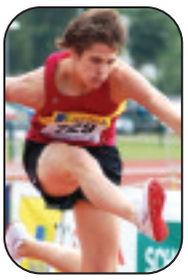
Middle Girls – 300: 3 Lauren McCarthy St Cyres 42.44; 800: 4 Eloise Laity Westbourne 2:26.49; 1,500: 4 Bethan Daw St Cyres 4:59.40; TJ: 4 Lia Thomas Bro Morgannwg 9.20.

Team: 1 South East Wales 91.5; 5 Cardiff & the Vale 80.

Junior Girls – 200: (-1.3): 5 Maisie Matthews Bro Morgannwg 27.94; 800: 5 Lucy Tarrant Llantwit Major 2:32.89; LJ: 2 Lucy Taylor Llantwit Major 4.84/1.3; JT: 5 Fern Mason Bro Morgannwg 21.57; 4x100: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 51.90.

Team: 1 Dyfed 65.5; 3 Cardiff & the Vale 57.

Overall points: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 542; 2 Dyfed 523.5; 3 South East Wales 394; 4 North East Wales 368; 5 Glamorgan Valleys 322; 6 Afan Nedd Tawe 309.5; 7 Eryri 218; 8 Powys 180.



An encouraging debut in the senior boys 400 metres hurdles for Tom Williams (Bro Morgannwg).

A safe last change from Maisie Mathews (Bro Morgannwg) to Cyndi Kitange (Mary Immaculate) in the 4x100 junior girls relay.

Curtis Mathews adds the senior high jump title to his victory in the recent Combined Events at Swansea.

Team captains Gwenno Brown (Glantaf) and Adam Jones (Stanwell) receive the Overall Points Trophy from the Welsh Schools treasurer Mr Dilwyn Davies.

The three medallists in the middle boys 100 metres – Jamie Sexton (St Richard Gwyn 2nd), Jamual Whyte (St Teilo's 1st), and Tom Cusworth (NE Wales) received their medals from the Lady Mayoress of Cardiff.

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Suddenly on July 15, 2009 at Llandough Hospital after a short illness, Albert (Jim), aged 86 of Maesycwm Street, Barry.
Beloved husband of the late Daisy, much-loved father of Christine and Andrea, dear father-in-law of Richard and the late Arthur, adored grampy of Mark, Paul and Sara and great-grampy of Jessica, Isabelle and Olivia, dearly-loved brother of Vera, Sheila and the late Ron.
Resting at AG Adams & Son Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service at Crossway Methodist Church, Barry on Tuesday July 28 at 2pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.
He will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him. No flowers by request, donations if desired to Ty Hafan The Children's Hospice in Wales, St Hilary Court, Copthorne Way, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff CF5 6ES.

Margaret Whitehouse
The family of the late Margaret Whitehouse wish to thank everyone for their sympathy, help and support following Margaret's death.

Chris Woods
Suddenly at home in Rhoose on July 9, Chris aged 50. A true and valued friend of Paula, Ken and Charlotte, Monica, Gerald and Lawson, Chris became part of our family.
A much respected colleague of many.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday July 24, service 2pm at Penmark Church. No flowers by request, donations in lieu of desired to Glamorgan Industrial Mission c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF63 3DZ.

Congratulations

Congratulations
Jonathon McGowan
on achieving a BSc Honours in Computer Network Management at Solent University, Southhampton.
We are all so proud of you.
Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Lewis, Lloyd, Morgan, Grace, Grampy and all the family. XXXXX

Liam Thomas BSc
Congratulations on your 2:1.
We love you and are so very proud.
Mum, Dad, Glyndwr & Blaine.
XXXXX

Anniversaries

Ruby Wedding Anniversary
26th July, 2009
Margaret & Jim
MUIR
Llantwit Major
With lots of love and congratulations from all your family and friends.
x x x x x x

Public Notice

Gareth Jones are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £96,000 for **20 George Street, Barry** Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Gareth Jones, 85 High Street, Barry CF62 7DX - 01446 744812 before exchange of contracts.

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE for up to 4 weeks for 50p a word plus VAT. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to "The Glamorgan Gem" at The Gem, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

MASKREYS bedroom drawer units, headboard, chest £35 each. Office table £25. Ikea cabinets £15 each. Tel: 01446 760576. **(30)**

TITAN OIL TANK 2,500 litres, plastic £70 ono. Tel: 01446 794803. **(30)**

SHOP RIDER New scooter £500. Two seater couch, good condition leather £100. New mobile flush toilet £80. Bath master (new) £100. Wheelie walker (new) £80. Walker on wheels, good condition £50. Tel: 01656 890489. **(30)**

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WHITE FIRE SURROUND £50. Tel: 01446 742560. **(30)**

PRIORY OAK Welsh dresser £200 ono. Brown leather three piece suite £200 ono. Priory oak extendable table & 5 chairs £100. Tel: 01656 658600. **(30)**

GIRLS APOLLO rampage s bike like new £25. Desk with leather top £50. Please ring 01446 794945. **(29)**

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

Developments in Conservation Areas

Application No: 2009/00708/LBC
Proposal: Demolition of existing limestone boundary wall (northern boundary) - Reconstruction using re-claimed limestone, and where necessary link limestone walling - creation of new highway access and car park hard-standing.
Location: Ty Mawr (Great House), Bonvilston
Conservation Area: Bonvilston

Application No: 2009/00709/FUL
Proposal: Proposed summerhouse, formal landscaped garden and proposed improvements to eastern boundary wall
Location: Tudor Lodge, Bonvilston
Conservation Area: Bonvilston

Application No: 2009/00721/FUL
Proposal: Conversion of two existing garages (with lofts) into a single storey, one bed-sitting room cottage and raised finished floor level to 49.9m. No demolition proposed
Location: Mill Farm, Llandow, Cowbridge
Conservation Area: Llandow

Application No: 2009/00723/FUL
Proposal: Replace existing wooden windows and door with double glazed box sash windows and door
Location: 37, Westbourne Road, Penarth
Conservation Area: Penarth

Listed Building Consent

Application No: 2009/00708/LBC
Proposal: Demolition of existing limestone boundary wall (northern boundary) - Reconstruction using re-claimed limestone, and where necessary link limestone walling - creation of new highway access and car park hard-standing.
Location: Ty Mawr (Great House), Bonvilston
Listed Building: Grade II

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER, 1995

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way

Application No: 2009/00656/FUL
Proposal: Removal of condition 1 of approved application 2008/01606/FUL to allow the access track and associated works which serve the waste composting plant to be retained permanently
Location: Agricultural land to the north of Cowbridge by-pass and to the west of Llwynhelig Farm, Cowbridge

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 14 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 23rd July, 2009

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation

The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry, CF63 4RT

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- 07 VW Golf 3dr in Grey, 32,000 miles £7995
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DOUBLE CELEBRATION

THE MURCH LADY BOWLING TEAM OUTSHINE MEN

THE ladies of the Murch Bowling Club won two of the three games played recently, with victories over Fairwater and Penylan by scores of 35-22 and 60-49 respectively.

Against Penarth Bowling Club, the Murch ladies went down 25-41.

Against Fairwater, the rink skipped by Gloria Perry were 23-5 winners, which more than compensated for the 12-17 loss by skip Belinda Price's quartet.

In the three rink game against Penylan, skip Gloria Perry's rink were 20-shot winners, while the rinks skipped by Gwladys Hayes and Cynthia Tranter went down by nine shots overall.

In the double rink game against Penarth, both Murch rinks were defeated, skip Pat Ayres by 10 shots and skip Pauline Cutler by six shots – overall a 25-41 defeat.

The Murch men bowlers were not as successful as their lady counterparts, winning just one of the five games played.

The win was in an Alliance game against Birchgrove by 54-43.

In another Alliance game at Mackintosh, Murch went down 37-54.

In a Munro Cup match against Sully, all four Murch rinks were beaten, overall by 72-60.

The Municipal League Division Four game at Mountain Ash saw the home side victorious on three of the four rinks, the solitary Murch win being on the rink of Derek Blainey, Gus Santavy, Ivor Williams and skip Colin Garland, who succeeded 16-13.

Heaviest defeated Murch rink was Malcolm Wheadon, Tony Rice, Bob Pemberton and skip Bob Hill who went down by 12-30.

Overall a 93-60 loss for the Murch.

A Division Six game saw the Murch 'A' side beaten 79-67 by Victoria Park 'A'.

The winning Murch rink was Clive Salvidge, Geoff Lane, Ian Robinson and Alan Savage who won 21-20.

TERRY NOLAN

Romilly pipped by strong Valley side

BARRY Romilly Bowling Club travelled to Gilfach Bowling Club for their Division One fixture expecting a tough encounter – and it was – with Romilly winning two of the four rinks and losing the aggregate 73-75 for a gain of four points.

Howard Jones's rink of R Hewitson, P Gershenson and J Jones drew the short straw, drawn against the Welsh international Craig Williams' rink, who went on to lead from the start and foil Romilly's efforts with a 12-22 win.

Dave Wright's rink of A Bryan, C Geen and G Cogbill, also had a difficult game against a slick Gilfach rink who were always in front, and kept the Romilly boys on the back foot to win the rink 16-19.

B Foscolo's rink of M Newman, M Doyle and M Gershenson, played a strong game against tough opponents skipped by the young international Carl Wood. It was a tight game and after 19 ends, the scores were level at 19 shots apiece.

However, Romilly won the last two ends and the rink 23-19.

Tony Freeman's rink of C Collins, B Hewitt and G Eastment, also played a strong game and were in front for most of this match.

The Romilly skip was full of praise for his teams efforts and the rink win of 23-19.

'A' side win against under-strength Splott

BARRY Romilly Bowls Club 'A' side provided a warm welcome for their opponents Splott Bowling Club to Romilly Park on Saturday for their Division Six match.

The weather was fine, the green was well-prepared but it was unfortunate that the Splott Club arrived with three players short.

However, the match did take place and was played in good spirits with Romilly taking maximum points.

Vince McFarland's rink of A Jones, W James and P Herbert, were in good form and always in front, and overwhelmed their opponents with a 23-8 win.

Alf Woodcock's rink of A Bumford, D Ford and G Rees, played against a reduced Splott rink and were also always in front. Romilly won this game 25-15, despite their opponents taking the last six ends and eight shots.

Bob Wyatt's rink of B Cheal, C Davies and G Whittaker, also played their game against a reduced Splott rink, who put up a good fight. However, The Romilly team proved to be too good on the day and went on to win this game 22-15.

Bryn Gough's rink of G Farmer, T Bloomfield and K Westgate had a tough time against a strong Splott threesome, who led for most of this match.

However, thanks to George Farmer's welcome return to league matches, the Romilly boys rallied well to win this game 19-18. **RH**

Latest Vale road work warnings

Barry Road junction with Court Road and Fairford Street *– road closure in place, from July 27-September, to allow sewer renewal works. Local diversions will be in place.*

Dock View Road junction with Thompson Street, Barry *– construction work on footbridge over railway line.*

Church Road, Bridge Street, Cowbridge Street, Barry *– traffic barriers in place; carriageway width restrictions.*

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06	Astra Twin Top 1.6 Sport	£10999

Finance example: Cost price £7999. Deposit £3,999. Balance £4,000. Total Interest £1,698.20. 60 monthly repayments of £89.97. (Document and purchase fees apply). Total amount payable £9,697.20. Subject to status and terms of agreement. Written quotations are available on request.
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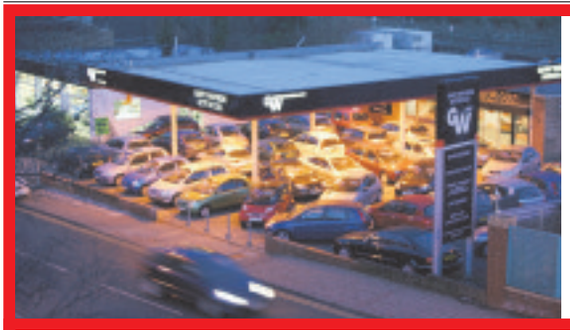

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W	**BMW Z3 1.8** In topaz blue, with blue roof and leather trim, 63,000 miles, fantastic value at	£5,495
53	**MGTF 1.8 135** In graphite met, 35,000 miles, very nice example with hide trim	£4,695

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56	**LEXUS iS 250 SEL (New Shape) Automatic.** In met. red with cream leather, 17,000 miles, 1 local owner	£17,995
56	**BMW 118 Diesel Sport** In silver with charcoacl trim, 27,000 miles, fsh	£12,995
55	**MERCEDES C220 CDi SE Sport Coupe Auto.** In smoke silver, 58,000 miles	REDUCED BY £1000 TO £10,995
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54	**BMW 530 SE Automatic** In met silver with full black leather trim, full specification executive saloon at	£9,995
52	**BMW 325 Ci Sport Automatic.** In met. blue with beige leather, 75,000 miles	£8,495
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03	**AUDI A4 Avant 2.0 TDi SE.** In met. blue, high mileage but looks and drives superb	£6,995
02	**BMW 330 Sport.** In silver with black leather trim, 64,000 miles, superb value at	£6,995
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W	**MAZDA MX5 1.8.** In met-silver, 57,000 miles, hard and soft top, fsh	£4,495
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06	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Sport 3-dr.** In black, 22,000 miles, one owner	£6,495
54	**FORD C-Max 2.0 Diesel Ghia.** In met blue, low mileage local car at	£6,495
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05	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.7 CDti Life 5-Dr.** In met silver, low mileage example at	£5,995
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54	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.3 CDTi Energy 3-dr** in black, low mileage diesel at.	£4,995
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04	**SMART CAR Pulse.** Red & black, black leather trim, 35,000 miles. full glass roof	REDUCED BY £600 TO £4,395
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A/c, cd **£7995**
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Cd, electrics, choice **£3995**
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03 53 RENAULT Megane Scenic 1.6 Authentique 5-dr. A/c, cruise control, full electrics **£3995**
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08 **57 FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback.** In apple green with Cascade indigo interior, climate control, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, heated front screen, only 3,873 miles **£5,995**

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07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In metallic black with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, front electric windows, only 19,005 miles..... **£6,495**

05 **55 FIAT Panda 1.2 Eleganza 5-dr Hatchback.** In cocktail blue with Azure blue interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, only 16,400 miles..... **£4,995**

06 **56 FORD Focus 1.6 Ghia 5-dr Hatchback Automatic.** In aquarius blue with cubical ebony interior, air con, cruise control. quick clear screen, only 26,900 miles **£7,995**

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185/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£63.83	£120	£230	185/65R14 Avon ZV3	£50.51	£95	£185	185/65R14 Hero	£33.21	£63	£120
185/65R15 Bridgestone ER300	£73.84	£140	£270	185/65R15 Avon ZV3	£54.84	£105	£200	185/65R15 Hero	£36.65	£69	£132
195/65R15 Bridgestone B250	£66.28	£125	£240	195/65R15 Avon ZV3	£52.83	£99	£190	195/65R15 Hero	£37.81	£71	£137

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195/60R15 Bridgestone ER300	£68.71	£130	£250	195/60R15 Avon ZV3	£58.66	£112	£220	195/60R15 Federal	£40.38	£78	£150
195/65R15 Bridgestone ER300	£61.37	£115	£220	195/65R15 Avon ZV3	£51.74	£97	£195	195/65R15 Federal	£41.58	£79	£150
205/55R16 Bridgestone ER300	£69.59	£135	£260	205/55R16 Avon ZV3	£62.66	£120	£235	205/55R16 Federal	£49.84	£95	£180

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GEM sport

Cornelli pupils toast tremendous treble

Corneli Primary celebrate their treble with the Mayor of Bridgend Coun Jeff Tildesley.

THE Bridgend Schools Football Association held its annual awards evening recently at Pyle Life Centre.

Corneli Primary School collected the league trophy for the second successive year, finishing 11 points clear of newcomers to the league St John's of Porthcawl.

Finishing third were Nottage Primary School, who also reached the final of the BSFA Challenge Cup.

Corneli Primary remained unbeaten for the whole season, stretching their unbeaten run to two years.

They also won the BSFA Challenge Cup. According to their coach, Alex Clarke, it was a perfect season.

He said:"I just can't believe how this season has gone. It has been a wonderful year, the players of Corneli have really set a fantastic example for themselves and their school. They also won the Litchard Cup, and got to the final of the Welsh Schools Cup, so I am very proud of every single one of them"

Despite the winning margin for Corneli being quite large, the rest of the league was particularly close - with second and third resolved on the last day as St John's beat Nottage Primary to take second spot by one point.

St John's coach Michael Gatt has been particularly pleased with the season. "We've come into the league for the first time this year and we've really enjoyed the challenge of winning games in a close-fought league".

Iain Ashton, the Nottage coach, echoed his sentiments: "It's been a very hard year with lots of very good teams taking points off each other, so to get to the cup final and finish third this year is very pleasing!

"I would also like to pass on my congratulations to Corneli and St John', as their respective positions are clearly deserved. Corneli have been simply outstanding this year."

The association also awarded individual awards to players, voted by players, coaches and management of the association.

Winner of the golden boot was Newton Primary's Jorge Crofts, who scored a total of 21 league and cup goals. Newton coach Henley Jenkins said he was well deserving of the award: "Jorge has been a wonderful asset to the team this year, scoring some really important goals which have taken us to fourth in the league and the semi finals of the cup."

The golden glove award was shared between Nathan Gibbs (St John's) and Kyle Thomas (Corneli) who each conceded only 16 goals all season.

Player of the season was again a tie, with Jorge Crofts (Newton) and Corneli's number 8 Joe Graham taking the honours.

Both trophies were awarded by Bridgend County Mayor, Coun Jeff Tildesley and former BSFA player of the season, Joseph Jones, who will be taking up trials at Ipswich Town this summer.

The association now looks to have a busy summer in front of it as from September, 20 schools will be affiliating with them, making football the fastest growing sport in Bridgend primary schools.

For more pictures, turn to page 14.

CAVALIERS BLUDGEON BLAENGARW

VISITORS Blaengarw won the toss and put Llantwit Cavaliers in to bat, gaining instant success as opener Mark Coldwell was bowled with the second delivery.

This brought Nigel Allison to the crease a little earlier than expected but he was in majestic form as he joined Julian Griffiths in a marvellous 145-run partnership.

Allison struck boundaries to all corners of the ground making a sparkling 79 before falling to an excellent catch at deep cover.

The Blaengarw spinners attempted to put the brakes on but the hard-hitting James Snelson soon got his eye in, thrashing four sixes off one over and hitting six maximums in a quickfire 90 before he too fell to a brilliant catch at mid-on.

Julian Griffiths had been steadily accumulating runs with some well timed and well-placed shots which gave the on song Allison and Snelson plenty of strike. He passed the century mark in the 41st over, going on to carry his bat for a season's best of 124 not out in Llantwit's total of 299-3.

After a hard afternoon in the field, Blaengarw found it just as taxing when they came in to bat. James Snelson made the early breakthrough before going on to claim 3-38, with skipper Mike Wood keeping the pressure on at the other end, only conceding 11 runs off his 10 overs.

Blaengarw found the Llantwit change bowlers equally difficult to deal with as Julian Griffiths pace brought him two wickets for seven runs in his 10 overs and the slow right arm of Dave Russell deceived the lower order as he claimed 3-16 off eight overs.

Jonathan Cheal came on to clean up the tail enders with 2-4 off two overs, including a crucial last ball of the match strike to earn maximum bowling points. This week the Cavaliers travel to second placed Abertillery for what could turn out to be a title decider.

Crew remain at the top of table

SHED Crew Warriors remained top of the Bridgend Leisure League's top flight, despite being held to a 1-1 draw recently by Racing Inter.

AC Brackla took full advantage of this slip-up to close in on the leaders, with a 9-0 humbling of Oxymoron FC.

Bulldogs moved up into third spot with an Andrew Payne inspired taming of Mean Machine.

B Attack showed that they like to go forward, clipping The Bluebirds wings in a 4-0 victory to move clear at the top of Division One.

Elsewhere Velindre Foundation Fundraisers moved into third spot, where they caught Day Sleepers napping in a 5-2 victory, while Hangover Heroes were given a headache by Croissants, as the latter snatched a 2-1 win, Daniel Goldsworthy starring.

GOLF - CAN ANY GAME BE QUITE AS CRUEL?

by PHILIP IRWIN

EVERY once in a while, a sporting event happens that even non-sports fans get caught up in.

The agonising way in which Tom Watson just failed to win the Open Championship really set people talking.

Would it have been the greatest sporting achievement ever? After all, in other sports, the idea of a 59-year-old coming so close is unthinkable.

Take your choice, whether it be tennis, rugby, football, athletics or boxing (heaven forbid!) The very idea of an old man finding success is inconceivable.

But there it was unfolding live day by day on the beautiful links at Turnberry. And for those of us who grew up watching Tom Watson, it really was like the old days.

There were some wrinkles on the face, but the same smooth golf swing was there. The same perfect balance. The same full shoulder turn. The same half smile as he watched another shot split the fairway.

It ***was*** the same player who beat Jack Nicklaus on the same course in 1977.

And never forget, that player who was so great in the 1970s and 1980s really was something special. He would have won many more than eight majors if his putting had stayed good. He was always the one who was playing best tee to green. Always the one who made the game look so easy.

When it came to the final hole in a major – the greatest test of nerve there is – he would be the one who would arrow his approach shot right at the pin. Two iron, four iron, seven iron – it made no difference.

You could watch Watson and convince yourself that the game was simple after all. Then you would grab your clubs, head for the course, and discover that it was only that easy for him.

Despite being so good he was courteous, modest, played quickly and, to put it simply, he was a gentleman.

At Turnberry, even his fans expected him to fade away, but he refused to do so. Over the final holes of a 72-hole marathon, he played as well as anyone – and there lies the cruellest twist of fate.

He stood in the middle of the 18th hole, having driven into position A. One more shot to play. Just one more shot. The man who always hit the perfect shot on the final hole of a major. Remember his approach in 1977, arrowed to just two feet.

If now, at the age of 59, he had finally failed, it would have been tough, but not cruel. However, he didn't fail at all. On that 'final' iron shot, he once again played a perfect shot, once again flying straight and true at the pin.

The ball, however, took a brisk bounce forward, ran and ran, and trickled into a tricky lie through the green.

Then, at just the wrong moment, the putting weakness resurfaced, and a three putt put him into a play-off against Stewart Cink.

And in that play-off, he suddenly looked 59 – or maybe a bit more. What he would have given to just shake hands after he found the thick rough on the 17th – the third play off hole – and walk in.

However, the gentleman played on to the bitter end, and even exchanged a few rueful words with spectators.

Then, he stood with that same half smile during the presentation speeches. Has there ever been a more downbeat presentation ceremony?

Speaking personally, at around 4pm the tension became unbearable. Lee Westwood was leading and playing superbly. There were others in contention but Watson still seemed the most likely challenger.

I had £5 at 25/1 on Westwood, but I would happily have said goodbye to it if Watson could win. It was, as they say, a no lose situation.

Until Stewart Cink arrived. He was, to quote Bill Elliot of The Guardian "The bad prawn that ruined Watson's last big barbecue".

They say that, with time, no one remembers who came second. In time, people will look back, see the name Stewart Cink on the list of Open winners, and that will be all that matters.

Maybe that's true. When people read that Paul Lawrie won in Carnoustie in 1999, do they still remember Jean van de Velde's 18th-hole disaster?

Actually, I do remember it. And I think I will remember Turnberry 2009 even longer.

The GEM Quiz League posers

THINKING caps on for the following:

1) To whom on his resignation as British Prime Minister in 1955 did the Queen say – "Do you want a Dukedom or anything like that"?

2) Which town south west of Birmingham was founded in 1879 for workers at a chocolate factory and was Britain's first planned town?

3) Former England midfielder David Platt played for Juventus, Sampdoria and which other Italian side?

4) Five of the six Nobel Prizes are awarded in Stockholm. Which one is awarded in Oslo?

A RUDGE
Hon Sec, BGQL

QUIZ ANSWERS:
1. Winston Churchill.
2. Bournville.
3. Bari.
4. Peace Prize.

LADIES GOLF

PYLE and Kenfig Golf Club ladies section results were as follows:

Centenary Foursomes Qualifier – Winners: Sue Forbes and Gaynor Lavelle 37 points; Runners-up: Eira Jones and Thelma Taylor – 35 points a count back from Cora Edwards and Liz Holland.

Breast Cancer Charity Challenge – £132. 82 was raised – the target was reached by the 40 ladies competing in the 9 hole Texas Scramble.

Winning team: Anita Evans, Pam Saville, Gaynor Lavelle and Margaret Wood. Nearest to the pin: 4th – Heather Jenkins; 6th – Norma Foreman.

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